

THE JOURNAL

day, February 6, 2004

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Sports Win keeps El Cerrito girls atop league hoop standings [A8]

Arts The beauty of glass showcased in exhibit [C10]

Albany continues to seek a happy median

The city is moving on a plan to restore Buchanan Street medians, but funding for work remains an issue

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The City Council taken a small step to improve landscaping of Buchanan Street's median strips, their weedy and dry condition the subject of resident complaints.

On Monday, Feb. 2, the council unanimously approved allocating \$5,000 from its discretionary fund toward paying for the cost estimate to do irrigation repair and design for the landscaping on those medians. Residents spoke about the issue during a public comment period, said city clerk Jackie Bu-

Albany, like other cities, is trying to do as much as we can, as little money as we can," Lieberman said. "We are working a lot with grants and volunteers as much as we can. The Buchanan Street median doesn't seem to be a volunteer project." City officials blame a 1960s-era irrigation system for the condition of the Buchanan median landscaping, which is composed mainly of dirt and weeds in the winter and fall due to the lack of water.

Most of it (the irrigation) is broken but not all of it, and that's what we need to assess," Lieberman said.

The city will likely try to get money from the Alameda County Management Authority for the improvements.

The authority provides grants for environmentally friendly landscaping. As a result, city officials are envisioning low-maintenance, sustainable, "bay



THE MEDIAN STRIPS along Buchanan Street are in dire need of landscaping and other attention, say some residents.

friendly" improvements on the median strips that forego the use of pesticides.

In the meantime, the waste management authority has promised a \$7,500 grant to the city that will be combined with the council's \$5,000 allocation,

to be used to pay for the plan and cost estimate to do the job.

"The city would really like to see the gateway improved and we hope this is the first step towards that," Lieberman said. "We hear people's complaints about what it looks like and we would

really like to make it look nicer, and hopefully in a way that's sustainable."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

School closures averted

■ Three principals may lose jobs in the latest cost-cutting measures

By Kara J. Shire
STAFF WRITER

PINOLE — Closing West Contra Costa school district elementary schools will not be part of the cost-cutting equation this year, Superintendent Gloria Johnston said Monday night.

The news stunned the crowd of some 400 people, many of whom had come armed with picket signs and prepared

speeches aimed at saving their school from closure.

Officials previously had suggested closing three elementary campuses to save an estimated \$1.2 million. On Monday, they were expected to name the schools targeted for closure.

Instead, Johnston said no elementary school would be shuttered this year, although the proposal could come back in the future.

Two continuation high schools, Gompers and North Campus, still could be merged to

See CUTS, Page A9

Racetrack to be integral part of waterfront plan

■ A revised development plan will be submitted by the end of the year and might go before voters

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Magna Entertainment Corp. will submit a new plan for Golden Gate Fields by the end of the year, and it's certain the racetrack will be a part of it, said MEC vice president Andy Blair, during a public meeting about the waterfront.

"Thoroughbred horse racing and its related activities are and will continue to be the core activity of MEC," Blair said, during

a meeting that drew about 200 people to the Albany Community Center Tuesday night. "MEC will continue to conduct racing at Golden Gate Fields indefinitely, that in addition to horse racing activities in Dixon. I don't know if I can say it any more clearly than that."

Scores of people attending the community workshop said they were in favor of a concept plan created by the Citizens for Eastshore State Park and the Sierra Club, which envisions the waterfront as parkland, with the racetrack gone.

Fewer residents, though nearly as vocal, came out in fa-

See TRACK, Page A9

City backs ballot measures on school parcel tax, bridge tolls

In other actions, it closes school car lot and accepts a grant for creek restoration

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The City Council unanimously approved resolutions supporting two March 2 ballot measures. They include Measure J, a West Contra Costa school district parcel tax, and Regional Measure 2, a traffic congestion relief plan that would increase bridge tolls by \$1 per seven Bay Area bridges.

Measure J passes by a two-thirds vote, property owners in the school district would pay 6.8 cents per square foot of their home or business, according to Measure J fact sheet. It would raise \$7.5 million and expire after five years. Senior citizens over 65 would be exempt. The money will be spent on maintaining reduced class sizes for the district's youngest students; teaching materials and books; enhancing core subjects, including reading, writing,

math and science; and attracting and retaining qualified teachers, counselors and custodial staff.

Supporters say the measure is needed because of state and local budget cutbacks.

"This is about the children, the children of our district and what's going to happen to them with budget cuts this year," said Councilwoman Janet Abelson.

The Contra Costa Taxpayer's Association opposes the measure, because of concerns that the tax configuration is too complex.

The council also approved a resolution supporting Regional Measure 2, a ballot initiative that will raise more than \$125 million a year for new travel options and increased capacity in the Bay Area's seven state-owned bridge corridors.

"A \$1 increase in toll funds from seven Bay Area bridges will directly benefit toll payers by creating one world-class transit system, with a single-fare card, monthly pass and timely connections along all major corridors," according to a report.

The bridges in question are: Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Car-

quinez, Richmond-San Rafael, San Francisco-Oakland, San Mateo-Hayward and Dumbarton. The Golden Gate Bridge is excluded.

Among other things, the money would help decrease traffic congestion along Interstate 80, Abelson said.

Car lot closed

The council also shut down a used-car lot at 11940 San Pablo Ave. after owner Cenik Ozkay was found repairing vehicles at the site, violating conditions of a permit he was given to operate the business.

Ozkay had been repairing vehicles at Trend Motors since August, even producing a coupon advertising the service, according to a city report.

A use permit issued in May 2003 said the site would be limited to used car sales.

The El Cerrito fire department also found multiple violations for operating a repair service garage during August and November inspections.

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GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

Winter market

EL CERRITANS have a year-round farmers market twice a week with ever-changing offerings according to the season. Here, Phil Carter of The Fruit Tree, based in Winters, helps customers at his stand. The El Cerrito farmers market is open every Tuesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — it celebrates its 10th anniversary this summer.

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Kindergarten sign-up deadline is Feb. 25

The Albany Unified School District will register children for admission to kindergarten for fall 2004 on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Starting Feb. 26, children may be registered at Ocean View, Marin or Cornell schools. Also, children in grades 1-5 who currently reside in Albany need to register at this time.

Registering a child at the closest school to home does not guarantee assignment to that school, district officials say. Many factors are considered in student assignment.

Parents need their child's certified birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport and be prepared to fill out health forms concerning vaccinations, immunizations and childhood diseases. Documentation of the dates of immunizations for polio, DTP, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B and varicella for each child is required. No child can enter kindergarten next fall unless he or she has had these immunizations. No child will be allowed to attend school unless all information is complete, officials say.

This registration is for current Albany residents only. Parents not residing in Albany who are interested in enrolling new students in Albany elementary schools must submit an inter-district permit from their district of residence before May 1 to the district office. Information: 510-558-3765.

Recorders to play to help St. Alban's

The Bay Area Recorder Series will present, as its first event of 2004, a concert to raise money for St. Alban's Episcopal Church, on Sunday, Feb. 29 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary at the church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany.

The money will go to help the church's make its parish hall, a popular venue for many early-music groups, handicapped-accessible. The church is currently raising funds to install an elevator, and a bathroom and ramp that are up to standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The sanctuary is handicapped-accessible.

The concert will feature longtime members of the Bay Area recorder community and newcomers, including the Farallon Recorder Quartet (Letitia Berlin, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Hanneke van Proosdij), Frances Feldon, Eileen Hadidian, Judy Linsenberg, David Barnett, Tom Bickley and Sabine Djernaes, as well as visiting artist Dan Laurin.

Tickets are \$15-\$18, or \$5 for children accompanied by an adult. Details: 510-559-4670 or e-mail barecorderseries@mindspring.com.

Waterfront planting event scheduled

The community development department invites the community to help with another planting event on the waterfront on Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will be held rain or shine, and volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and sturdy shoes, and bring a favorite digging tool, if they have one, as well as a friend. Snacks will be provided. For details, call 510-528-5754.

El Cerrito

Book club will discuss "The Life of Pi"

The El Cerrito Library book club, Readers Anonymous, will discuss "The Life of Pi" by Yann Martel, on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at the library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito.

The harrowing and inspiring tale concerns Pi, a teenager in India whose father is a zookeeper. Deciding to immigrate to Canada, his father sells off most of the zoo animals, electing to bring a few along with the family on their voyage to their new home—but unknown adventures await Pi after the ship capsizes.

Information: 510-526-7512.

Symphony to play at Northminster

The Kensington Symphony with Eric Hansen, guest conductor and Seth Montfort on piano, will play a concert featuring the works of Tchaikovsky, Rossini and others at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. Suggested donation: \$10; seniors, \$8. Children free. 510-524-4335.

Philately will get you everywhere

Local stamp club experts will be at the El Cerrito Library on Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. to provide advice (and freebies) to potential collectors of all ages who would like to learn about collecting postage stamps as a hobby. Scouts working on badges and seniors (with or without grandchildren) are especially encouraged to attend. For details, call the library at 510-526-7512. The library is at 6510 Stockton Ave.

West County Winds will play at ECHS

The West County Winds will present classical pieces arranged for band, marches and modern music in its spring concert on Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. in the El Cerrito High School Little Theatre, 540 Ashbury Ave. The city-sponsored Winds is looking for new members. Meetings are held every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For details, call band director Spiros Xydias at 707-551-7188.

Officials investigating high school stabbing

By Karl Fischer
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — West Contra Costa school officials said Monday they are investigating a stabbing that followed a high school basketball game Friday night but uncovered no new information about what happened.

"So far our internal investigation has conflicting information in it and we're working with the Pinole Police Department to determine the facts," said Paul Ehara, school district spokesman.

Tiffini Reed, 16, remained in stable condition at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.



Tiffini Reed

School officials say there is a history of conflict between the victim and suspect.

Reed's lung was punctured by stab wounds during a fight about 9 p.m. as she left Pinole Valley High School.

Both Reed and the 17-year-old girl Pinole police arrested are Richmond residents who attend El Cerrito High School, Pinole police Capt. John Miner said. El

Cerrito played Pinole Valley on Friday.

The suspect also had puncture wounds and was treated at the hospital before being booked into Juvenile Hall in Martinez. The Contra Costa District Attorney's Office did not file charges against the suspect Monday.

Both police and school officials said the girls had a history of violent conflict.

Tiffini's mother said Saturday the district should have done more to protect her daughter, such as moving the suspect to another school.

The suspect's family said Sun-

day she did not initiate the fight. They said Tiffini was part of a group of girls that their relative and that she had altercations between them were so severe they asked officials to move Tiffini to another campus.

Police did not release the suspect's name.

Staff writers Kara J. Shoenberger, Lochner and Claire Boush contributed to this article. Karl Fischer at 510-262-2724; kfischer@cctimes.com.

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Jan. 26

■ **HOME BREAK-IN** — During the day, thieves broke into a residence on the 600 block of Masonic Avenue and stole items.

■ **STEREO STOLEN** — An Albany resident reported that between 9:30 and 10:15 p.m., thieves stole the stereo from his red Volkswagen Jetta that was parked on the 500 block of Key Route Boulevard.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night, thieves broke the window of a blue '98 Honda Civic and stole items.

■ **AUTO STOLEN** — Thieves stole a tan '83 Toyota Corolla parked on the 600 block of Jackson Street and broke into a red '97 Honda Civic on the 500 block of Jackson Street and stole items from inside.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — Thieves broke into a white '95 Honda Civic parked on the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue and stole items.

■ **HOME BREAK-IN** — About 10 a.m., a resident on the 700 block of Madison Street reported that when she returned home she heard the sound of a rear window being opened. She went to investigate and observed a man.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

■ **DUI** — About 2 a.m., officers stopped a black '98 Ford Taurus on the 400 block of San Pablo Avenue for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 21-year-old Richmond woman,

was arrested for DUI.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — Thieves broke into a blue Hyundai was parked on the 700 block of Madison Street.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers stopped a subject on a bicycle near Talbot and Brighton avenues for a vehicle code violation. The rider, a 43-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to have an outstanding BART warrant for damaging property in the amount of \$351 and was arrested.

■ **DOUBLE ARREST** — About 3:30 p.m., officers stopped a black '91 Oldsmobile near San Pablo and Washington avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 39-year-old Richmond man, was found to have an outstanding Marin County warrant for driving with a suspended license, no proof of insurance and violation of promise to appear in the amount of \$1,000. He was arrested. A 45-year-old Richmond woman with whom he was found to have an outstanding Alameda County warrant in the amount of \$6,001 and was arrested.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the day, thieves broke into a black '96 Honda Civic parked on the 600 block of Adams Street.

■ **INTOXICATED** — Shortly before midnight, officers arrested a 25-year-old Richmond man near Kains and Washington avenues for disorderly conduct and drug-related charges when he was found to be intoxicated.

Thursday, Jan. 29

■ **SUSPENDED LICENSE** — About 11 a.m., officers stopped a Chevrolet pickup near San Pablo and Carlson avenues for a vehicle code violation.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Thursday, Jan. 15

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A silver '98 Honda Accord was stolen from the 11000 block of San Pablo Avenue between Jan. 10 at about 10 a.m. and Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — At San Pablo Avenue and Wall Avenue a 31-year-old woman was stopped driving a blue '89 Toyota Corolla that had been reported stolen to San Rafael police Jan. 15. She was arrested and discovered to have an outstanding felony warrant from San Francisco. She was taken to the Martinez jail.

Saturday, Jan. 17

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Someone

took a white '96 Chevrolet S10 from the 2100 block of Harper Street between 10 p.m. Jan. 16 and 7 a.m. Jan. 17.

Sunday, Jan. 18

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — During a traffic stop at Blake Street and Lexington Avenue at about 3:30 a.m., police discovered that the Honda Accord had been reported stolen to Davis police. The driver also was found to be in possession of a car stereo with its serial number removed. He was arrested and taken to the Martinez jail.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

■ **ROBBERY** — Several teen-age boys punched a victim and demanded cash but left empty-handed at about 4:45 p.m. on the Ohlone

Greenway at Potrero Avenue.

■ **BURGLARY** — Thieves broke into a house under construction on the 1800 block of Arlington Ave. between Jan. 19 and Jan. 20 and took tools valued at about \$2,450. The tools were later found hidden in the bushes next door.

■ **BURGLARY** — Thieves entered an apartment on the 6400 block of Central Avenue, ransacked it and removed a laptop computer and foreign currency.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Someone broke into a vehicle on the 1000 block of Navellier Avenue between noon and 2:30 p.m. and took a purse.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A green '93 Honda Accord two-door was reported stolen from Eureka Avenue at El Street between 9 a.m. Jan. 16 and 9 a.m. Jan. 20.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

■ **SCHOOL BURGLARY** — A young man was seen entering El Cerrito High School through an open rear

door at about 9:15 p.m., and through the main building the doorknobs. The janitor asked to leave and saw him leave after carrying a grey garment bag. He believed he might have ransacked desks in the main office, but loss is unknown.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1991 Honda Accord from the 6100 block of Richmond Street between Jan. 20 and 4 p.m. Jan. 21.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A green, '93 Dodge Caravan was reported stolen at about 2:45 p.m. near Liberty at Fairmont Avenue; it had been reported stolen to San Francisco on Jan. 7.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A grey MPV van was reported stolen the 1700 block of Eastshore Blvd between 8 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Jan. 20.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 1993 Saturn SL four-door was reported stolen around midnight. It had been reported stolen to Emeryville on Jan. 20.

— Jour

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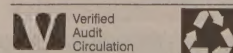
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Neighbors

NIAD art center grew from dream to reality

RECENT RECEPTION at NIAD gave me the opportunity once more to visit with Clara-Rae Genser. It has been years since we worked together on the board of the National Institute of Arts and Disabilities. He is now

looking and almost com- blind, but he still attends board meeting and knows what is going on. And he is his baby, his and his wife, Florence Ludens-

is a clinical psychologist, Florence, an artist and art teacher in their early 50s they decided to pool their talents and to start a center for adults with developmental disabilities. Ludens- painter, also worked in artistic fields, such as ce- and jewelry-making, says he and Florence worked together for years, before they married in City, she as a teacher and now they collaborated to establish "this singular entity which possible for people with disabilities to do art

had no models to turn to. "It was a concept," he said. "It was about 1970 when the Regional Center was in Oakland.

had no clear image of what we were doing, but I about teaching art and I about developmental dis- and the psychological of mental retardation illness."



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

GALLERY

For more information about the National Institute of Arts and Disabilities, call 510-620-0290.

He spoke of working to solve the financial aspects: "We were both retired with pensions and a home, so we were able to start it."

Other problems were finding a place to work and a format to use. "I had had a number of years at the sheltered workshop, where people with DD (developmental disabilities) could work, and Florence had specialties appropriate for a center, having been the owner of an art store in San Rafael for several years, and having administrative abilities. We took a calculated risk that it would work out."

He adds, "We found it very viable, very productive and very beneficial for the people who attended."

They received a NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) grant, "which gave us enough money to rent space."

Florence was the first teacher. "We were very excited when we started our first class." Later, the Regional Center of the East Bay, which had been started in 1965 to serve people with developmental disabilities, funded them for training their



"STRAY, THE DOG," is a watercolor by NIAD artist Rosie Pardo.

clients. "We were able to really launch the program and insure its continuation."

Their group of clients grew from two or three to 30 or 40. "They learned quickly and began to develop styles of their own," he says.

After several years, the Katzes decided to leave the Oakland facility, which continues today, and opened similar centers in San Jose and two in San Francisco, using the Oakland model, with no intention of remaining with any of them. They are all working centers still.

In about 1983 Elias and Florence decided to open their fourth center in Richmond. They started NIAD very small, working with the school district. With the help of the Regional Center they grew, and after a very successful fund-raising effort were able to buy the building they are in today.

Sadly, Florence died a few years later, but not before she started an exhibition gallery and a gift shop in the building.

Today NIAD is very much a part of the community, as well as having connections with other arts and community organizations. It has received grants from dozens of foundations and corporations, continue their funding from the Regional Center, from member support and fund-raising drives. It sells the art produced by their clients, sharing the profits with the artists.

Elias was very proud of the fact that the mortgage on the building will be paid off in August. He invites interested people to visit the facility at 551 23rd St. in Richmond.

Reach Clara-Rae Genser at 510-525-4585 or crgenser@aol.com.

Music camp inspiration helped many musicians

BACK IN THE summer of '57, a young music teacher at Berkeley High named Bob Lutt and his wife, Beth, were trying to decide where to spend their summer vacation. The only place they could afford on a teacher's salary was a family camp owned by the city of Berkeley on the Russian River.

When they arrived, they took one look at the cathedral-like setting beneath towering redwoods, and said, "This is the place!" They decided on the spot to hold a music camp there.

When they got back to Berkeley, Lutt marched into City Hall and laid his idea before the authorities.

"What's a music camp?" they asked.

"Let me have a couple of weeks next summer, and I'll show you," he said.

He called his friends in the San Francisco and Oakland symphonies and said, "Hey, want a free place to take your families camping next summer? All you have to do is teach some music classes."

Thus was born Cazadero Performing Arts Camp — or as the campers call it, "Caz." Everyone on the staff, from the counselors to the dishwashers in the kitchen, is a musician.

As soon as the campers arrive, they're given a difficult piece of music and told they'll be performing it in a week.

Naturally, they're sure they can't. And, naturally, by the end of the week they're amazed to discover that they can do it, after all. Result: skyrocketing confidence.

"I was so nervous the first day, I dropped my bow," recalls one of the original campers, violinist Doris Fukawa, concertmaster of the stage production of "The Lion King."

"I was certain they'd send me right home. Instead, they said, 'Don't worry about it, it happens to everyone,' and put me with the first violins."

Besides Fukawa, the first year's campers included Jon Kipp, alto sax player with Stan Kenton; Steve "Doc" Kupka, baritone sax player for Tower of Power; Lenny Pickett, leader of the "Saturday Night Live" band; and Phil Lesh, bass player for the Grateful Dead.

But it also included Chris Jarrett, who went on to be a successful property developer, and Bob Heywood, who became a distinguished attorney. They still play music on an amateur basis.

"We want our campers who become professional musicians to have a life outside music, and we want those who don't become professionals to still have a life inside music," says Lutt.



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

The first year's campers included Jon Kipp, alto sax player with Stan Kenton; Steve "Doc" Kupka, baritone sax for Tower of Power; Lenny Pickett, leader of the "Saturday Night Live" band; and Phil Lesh, bass player for the Grateful Dead.

By day, the campers play Bach, Beethoven and Benny Goodman in the most beautiful setting imaginable. By night, they sing songs around the campfire and sleep under the stars. They leave Caz even more in love with music and music-making than they were going in.

If you think your child would enjoy Caz, now's the time to sign up for next summer. Call 510-527-7500, write to Cazadero Performing Arts Camp, P.O. Box 7908, Berkeley, CA 94707, or log on to www.cazadero.org.

Several free camperships are reserved for low-income kids. They're subsidized by an online auction that is going on right now. All items are one-of-a-kind, such as a string quartet playing Mozart at your next party. You can view and bid for them on the Caz web site, www.cazpac.org.

It's my sad duty to report that Gina Niemeier, the well-liked waitress at Walker's Pie Shop in Albany, lost her gallant fight against cancer Jan. 26. She was only 48.

I wrote a lot about Gina while she was still here to read it, so I won't repeat it now. Suffice it to say that the old cliché was never truer: If more people were like her, this would be a much better world. My deepest sympathy to everyone who loved her.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

Communication is vital and can take many forms

LAST TIME, I began an answer to a request for information about the four components of superior mental fitness. The most important component, Awareness, was covered then. Today we will cover Communication — the most important component of mental fitness.

Communication: what does it mean to you? Most people think of talking. But how else are you going to express your ideas? Make yourself heard is important, but think about the other part of making your point. Just talking is not enough. You must have someone to hear you — a listener. Communication is two-directional. It must be shared.

Listening is more important than talking. A careful listener is indeed valuable and the difference between a called-for activity, and a dangerous mis-

take. If you were talking to a physician and she wanted to change the dosage of medication. If you misunderstood or don't listen carefully, you could suffer very serious consequences. Incidentally, don't hear well, be sure the speaker to repeat what was said; it is imperative you know what is being said.

The likelihood is high that someone who self-talks, a nonstop talker, but can't seem to let anyone express even the slightest opinion. Chances are this is an older person who is alone and doesn't often



CONNIE LYNCH
Don't Lose Your Mind

get the opportunity to have conversations. Such people are very difficult to deal with — communication is next to impossible.

How good a listener are you? Find out by trying this activity with an understanding friend. Carry on a "conversation." Your friend makes a statement. Then you may not present your first idea until you have repeated that statement. Then it's your turn to speak, and she must repeat what you said, and so on.

These days, communication has become, at times, really unpleasant. Our lives are full of many types of communication on television, newspapers, cell phones and computers. Are you constantly bombarded with information being sent, phoned or shown to you? The constant ringing of cell phones and the resulting conversations are most intrusive. Personally, I take a walk to escape the telephone and find it difficult to understand people who spend a pleasant, outdoor experience chatting away on the cellular phone.

Communication, like awareness, also has many components that we often don't consider. How many ways, other than those mentioned above, can you think of to send or receive a message? Have you

ever been on a crowded street, made eye contact with someone, and immediately knew what he was thinking?

Perhaps another person is scowling — you know what that means! Do you remember when your school teacher stood before your unruly class, crossed her arms, and pursed her lips? No doubt about what she was feeling. All of this is communication — and not a word is uttered.

Communication involving eye contact, body language, and other non-verbal techniques, obviously relies strongly on awareness. All of the components of mental fitness must be used simultane-

ously most of the time. You can now see the relationship between awareness and communication, and how important it is.

Next time we will consider another vital component — Curiosity.

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to conniemw@aol.com. Lynch, Ph.D. is the founder of Mind Works, a mental fitness program designed for older adults and is the author of the book, *Don't Lose Your Mind. Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness*. For information on books and classes, call 510-466-5833.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should
have a government without newspapers, or newspapers
without a government, I should not hesitate a moment
to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Public education is everybody's burden

THE WEST County school district this week gave parents, teachers and students cause for a sigh of relief by backing away from the specter of having to close schools to meet budget shortfalls.

That's relief, not celebration. And the relief is likely to be short-lived because it was made very clear that the decision to spare schools only applied to this year.

Many other services that we should expect public schools to provide are still on the list of proposed cuts in a district facing an estimated \$20 million budget shortfall.

Still not safe from the chopping block are all extra-curricular athletics, counselors, forensics and the district radio station at El Cerrito High, not to mention middle and high school libraries.

Our schools, dependent on state funds, are in trouble and have been for some time. Unfortunately, in West County, it's not a matter of great schools having to cut back and settle for being not so great, to save money. It's a matter of struggling schools sinking even lower.

There are some very fine teachers in our schools, who have sacrificed to save classes, who spend their own money on materials, and who have stuck with the job as the obstacles mount up. They have deferred salary increases — on salaries that barely give them enough to scrape by in this wildly expensive area in which we live.

Meanwhile, our leaders at state and national levels smirk and promise not to raise taxes. Meanwhile, CEOs of major corporations rake in millions of dollars in salaries and perks. Glossy magazines and fawning TV shows celebrate their excesses and those of celebrities famous for being famous.

And meanwhile, our public schools often lack the most basic necessities: a new textbook for every child ... a desk for every child ... minimally comfortable classrooms ... clean bathrooms.

You have to wonder what's wrong with this picture.

It's not just unfair. In a supposedly free country whose public schools ought to be a model for the world, it's a disgrace.

Some relief will be in sight on March 2 if voters pass Measure J, which will help maintain smaller classes for the youngest students, buy textbooks and teaching materials, attract and keep qualified teachers and restore custodial budgets so students can have clean bathrooms to use.

We should embrace Measure J the way drowning sailors clutch pieces of floating driftwood. But it's only a start.

It's time to admit we need to do something more permanent.

Currently public schools in wealthy areas do better because parents there spend money out of their own pockets. But that money goes only to the schools in those areas, while those in less-well-off neighborhoods go begging.

That is not the model for the superior system of public schools, which ought to be the jewel in the crown of any democracy.

The entire community needs to realize that those children in those schools are going to be adults very soon.

It's our duty to see that as many of them as possible are literate adults who know how their country works, from national government on down, who understand history well enough to make rational decisions when they vote, who become trusted, competent, ethical workers and citizens.

That means we have to learn some history ourselves, relearn what public education was supposed to be and then commit to it.

It will mean new taxes, yes. And so that they're not squandered, it also means better oversight of the way the money is spent. And it means that all of us, not just parents of current students, need to become involved in public education.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

IF LINCOLN HAD SPEECHWRITERS

MR. PRESIDENT, WE FEEL THE ADDRESS
SHOULD START WITH "EIGHT HALF
SCORES AND SEVEN YEARS AGO..."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

View exploitation

Glenn Davis (letters, Jan. 30) does not pussyfoot around. He has a simple proposal to enhance El Cerrito's property values: Turn our poor little town into ... TIBURON, or else those whose views are blocked by neighbors' trees will litigate!

Davis has some valid points. If there is arbitration, it should have time limits. But then a related compromise is to acknowledge that replacement foliage needs time to grow. Views that were blocked for 20 to 40 years could be restored over a period of, say, 10 to 20 years.

A bit of a view immediately, a filtered view in a few years, and eventually, when feasible, a restored view via more suitable trees. It takes time to work out these issues, but El Cerrito's view-seekers want their money's worth immediately, as per Tiburon's view ordinance.

It will be interesting to see how our City Council, which loves to tell Sacramento and Washington how to run the state or the country, will proceed on this divisive issue. Will they keep their pre-election "environmentalist" promises or will they cave in to the Hillside pressure group?

I fear that money talks and our "progressive" council will open our town to view exploitation with even fewer restrictions than George Bush puts on oil exploitation in Alaska.

Once all annoying trees bite the dust, nothing will stand in the way of looking down on folks, who will look down on folks, etc., until we reach the bottom of the hill. The lowest of the low will get to view and admire the backside of the hillside homes, wear caps, and doff them when they meet uphill neighbors. Folks will learn their place in the hierarchy of locational property values.

If it's green, eradicate. If it's leafy, annihilate. It is ironic that the most narrow-minded viewpoint now dominates those who strive to achieve the broadest panoramic views.

Peter Loubal
El Cerrito

Bad propositions

No to Propositions 57 and 58.

This dynamic duo is clearly designed to foist current state debt onto future generations. It is a way to bypass our civic and humanitarian obligations.

The National Priorities Project reports that in 2003, millionaires received a new tax cut of more than \$90,000, while the middle 20 percent only received \$200. Also, last year was the second consecutive year of job losses, which hasn't happened since the 1940s, and leaves us with a job gap of more than 7 million.

It is time to establish an equitable tax formula. When we have such "revenue enhancement" in place, then we can talk about keeping within our budget.

We must not pass current debt on to our children.

Joan Bartulovich
El Cerrito

Help our kids

I will be voting yes on Measure J because I want reduced class sizes for kindergarten through third grade maintained. Research has shown that the first few years in a child's educational experience influence the educational success of that child.

If kids don't pick up reading, writing and arithmetic during these early years, chances are that they will struggle with these subjects throughout their education.

Yes, I know Measure J is a tax. And

yes, I know that as a collective group we hate taxes. We work hard for our money, and the Bay Area has a high cost of living. But you know what? I really like smart, engaged kids.

I'd much prefer smart, engaged kids as the next crop of legislators, doctors, airplane mechanics, etc., over those that struggle to add, subtract and read directions. Imagine that as you board your next flight!

The West Contra Costa school district faces severe financial challenges as it prepares its budget for 2004-05. All expenses will be considered for the chopping block. A yes vote for Measure J will take class size reduction off that chopping block.

Give our kids the educational foundation they need. Vote yes on Measure J.
Cathy Garza
Kensington

Bush has indeed failed

In his Jan. 16 letter, Morris Cleland wrote that Iraq is better than before the U.S. invasion and, therefore, U.S. intervention in Iraq was not a failure. This incorrectly presumes that the president's choice to invade Iraq addressed the right problem.

On a school exam, a student can write a brilliant, articulate answer but still fail for not reading the question carefully and not answering the problem at hand.

The United States has the talent and resources to solve many problems, such as depositing nasty heads of state of any number of troubled countries. However, a brilliant solution to any one of those problems does not equate to success of U.S. policy overall.

Success of a presidency depends on understanding the context of problems and properly prioritizing those problems, in light of finite time and resources.

The debilitated technological and economic infrastructure that our forces have found in Iraq is evidence that no imminent threat required the United States to invade Iraq when and how we did. Invading Iraq was a distraction from more pressing national security needs, such as disruption of terrorist finance systems, protection of ports, and the hardening of energy and transportation and communication networks.

Real presidential leadership would also address the more difficult but critical problems of American energy consumption and the international explosion of the under-20 demographic in places without the economies or opportunities to support such population pressure, such as the Gaza Strip or South Asia.

Cleland's list of post-war Iraq gains in employment, health care, energy stability, government integrity and schooling also highlights pressing needs in America, where most citizens cannot find Iraq on a map or distinguish Wahhabis from Sunnis or Shiites.

By answering the wrong problem at the wrong time, the president's focus on toppling Saddam Hussein has led to an overall failure of U.S. policy abroad and

domestically.

Another Sept. 11

Recently, MSNBC interviewed Henry Kissinger about general political problems. Among his responses was a reference to the "victims of Sept. 11."

I am sure he was not thinking of Sept. 11 in Chile, when the CIA, Kissinger's connivance, overthrew a democratic government. That caused many more victims than the Sept. 11 event in New York two years ago, the misery caused by the bloody dictatorship, lasted several decades.

So, there is more than Sept. 11, 2001 — but Americans remember only the that affected them.

Reasonable measure

Last spring, when state funding threatened key programs in our schools, our teachers, principals, classified employees and administrators united to fer salary increases in order to save able programs such as class size reduction and counselors.

Today, with rising costs and impending state budget cuts, our children's programs are threatened once again. I know that we cannot count on the federal or state government to guarantee resources our local schools need. Here in West County, we must take care of our own schools and children.

That is why I am proud to support Measure J. Measure J generates funds for our local schools. All the raised by Measure J are directly invested in our children.

The measure is reasonable: approximately \$75 per household (less than cents per day). It contains a sunset provision after five years and provides an exemption for eligible senior citizens.

Here in West County we have a tradition of uniting for our children's schools. As they face one of the greatest crises, we have the wonderful opportunity to support them by voting yes on Measure J on March 2. For their information on the Measure J campaign, please see www.childrenofwestcounty.com.

Price is a trustee of the West Contra Costa school district.

Ponderous irony

It's a ponderous irony that in the midst of the current divisive atmosphere in our country over the reason we decided to wage war in Iraq, two countries perpetually on the brink of war, ancient disagreements have found a strain and potential peace.

India and Pakistan have fought skirmishes for centuries over age-old issues such as religion and common borders (i.e., Kashmir). Now, the leaders of these two countries have initiated a log to develop a peaceful resolution to legitimate differences while our government decided to abandon diplomacy and rush into a war over fabricated differences with Iraq.

Assuming a quality leader is in place and weighs the consequences of military action, is it preferable to have a first-world country with a third-world leader or a third-world country with a first-rate leader?

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577; Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333; Fax: 510-286-3885; E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083; e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov.

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249; 916-319-2014; Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710; 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-559-1406; Fax: 510-559-1478.

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John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-374-3231; Fax: 510-374-3429; E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-272-6695; Fax: 510-271-5151; E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Al-

bany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: Oakport@jgc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

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Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District

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Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

COMMENTARY

Friends group applauds city support for theater restoration

By Ann Lehman and Dianne Brenner

FRIENDS OF CERRITO THEATER

The Friends of Cerrito Theater are thrilled that the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency will use its funds to restore the historic El Cerrito Theater. El Cerrito joins a host of other cities that have chosen to provide their residents with an extraordinary theater. The free market will not build a theater (Fox Theater, San Jose; Del Mar Theater, Stockton; Del Mar Theater, Santa Cruz; Fox Theater, Oakland; Roseville Theater, Roseville). The restored theater building and marquee

will put the "there" there in El Cerrito. El Cerrito is moving into a new phase of redevelopment, as evidenced by recently upgraded public parks, the newly renovated swimming pool, street landscaping in the area, and restored creeks, and we are all delighted to be a part of it.

We feel strongly that this project will continue the economic revitalization of this area that started with the El Cerrito Plaza renovations. Movies and other programs will attract residents of El Cerrito and surrounding areas, who will spend

money in local businesses and restaurants. The following are quotes from citizens who wrote recently to the agency in support of the theater:

■ "The Cerrito Theater could well be the spark that revitalizes the area around it."

■ "It will be a destination point when we are shopping."

■ "This theater project seems like a unique opportunity. To develop both the economic and financial heart of this community, I can't think of a better move."

■ "I would love to be able to walk to the theater to see a movie; I currently spend all my

entertainment money and dinner dollars outside of El Cerrito."

But an equally compelling piece of the economic benefit is the building of community pride. Creating, through a community partnership between the city and its residents, a place where folks can meet and connect is not something easily quantifiable, but a critically important part of the benefit this project generates. The energy and excitement felt by all who attend the open house is immeasurable but was undeniable to anyone who attended. A never-before-seen crowd of 3,000 folks attended to witness the start of something new and vital. From seniors to the very young, with tears of memories of bygone days or excitement about the future, the feelings of connection and community were palpable that day.

Here are a few more comments written to the agency in support of the theater:

■ "What makes a city a de-

sired place to live is its unique identity, and the El Cerrito Theater provides the city with this opportunity."

■ "The theater, as proposed, could become a source of community and civic pride."

■ "El Cerrito needs a place where its citizens can meet and mingle."

■ "The Cerrito Theater represents a golden opportunity in El Cerrito not only to actively revitalize a potential treasure, but also to utilize one of its foremost landmarks and make a tremendous asset to the East Bay."

More than 100 Friends of the Cerrito Theater, from our membership of 900, came together on a cold and rainy night last December to brainstorm ideas for helping the city with this project.

The 11-member Friends of the Cerrito Theater steering committee, made up of El Cerrito business people, Economic Development Board members, fund-raisers, journalists, movie

buffs, historical-building specialists, nonprofit consultants, and volunteers, has joined together to begin the fund-raising and community building effort.

Our mission is "to develop support for restoring and preserving the historic art deco character of the Cerrito Theater, to build community and enhance the cultural life of the surrounding area."

If you wish to join with us in these efforts, see our Web site www.cerritotheater.org. You can also reach us at Friends of Cerrito Theater, 3020 El Cerrito Plaza, #402, El Cerrito, CA 94530, info@cerritotheater.org, or call 510-527-5724.

Ann Lehman & Dianne Brenner are co-chairwomen of the Friends of the Cerrito Theater.

CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

GRANTS: Seniors are reminded to see their counselors by March 2 for Cal Grant GPA verification, which will mail after it is signed by the counselor. The Cal Grant is not complete without also filling out the FAFSA. FAFSAs can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on paper forms at the School to Career office (room 110).

GRAD NIGHT: The next Grad Night is scheduled for Feb. 11. The committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. and a general meeting at 7:15 p.m. The night went out on the weekly bulletin board.

CASINO NIGHT: Volunteers are needed to help with solicitations for the Casino Night 2004 annual fund-raiser on March 20. Volunteers would reinforce the present team in going around to businesses and professional acquaintances asking for donations to the event. These may be gift certificates, items of merchandise, works of art, or monetary gifts.

E-mail Solicitations Chair Allen Reeves at a.reeves@comcast.net to find out how to help. (One of the goals is to create a copy center for the teachers.)

CRAB FEED: The ECHS Grad Night Committee will hold a crab-feed fund-

raiser on Saturday, Feb. 28 with no-host cocktails starting at 6:30 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Youth Hut. The cost is \$35 per person, and includes entertainment and door prizes.

For ticket information contact Vicki Berndt at vberndt@comcast.net or 510-525-0644.

ECHS AT YOSHI'S: The ECHS jazz groups will play at Yoshi's Jazz Club in Jack London Square on Monday, Feb. 9. Tickets are \$10 each and are available through the Music Department.

— ECHS e-tree

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Quote of the week:
"If I were asked to name the abiding concern of my baby boom generation, as we enter or move toward our second half-century ... it would probably be a quest for the meaning of life, and the hope, and faith, that one exists."

— Joyce Maynard, "The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2004"



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
 At the Library

AT THE ALBANY Library last week, we lost all our Internet connections for a day. I had planned on using the Internet to do some research, but instead I found myself browsing through our reference section. And the book I ended up using was "The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2004" — which may become my answer to the question: If you were stranded on a desert island, which book would you take with you?

The "World Almanac" is an amazing book. Maybe you already knew this — if so, you are probably wondering why I sound like I've just discovered it. But even though I had used it many times, I had never taken the time to look at all the information it contains. Just the first few pages give an idea of its breadth.

This year's almanac begins with an overview of the 2004 presidential race, including photographs and short biographies of all those Democrats we read about in the paper every day. There is also contact information for the Green, Reform, Libertarian, Constitution and Natural Law parties, and

primary and caucus dates and places are listed.

Next, there is another special section, called "The Baby Boom Generation." It includes two essays about Baby Boomers — one by Wendy Wasserstein and the other by Joyce Maynard — as well as a timeline which is broken down into three categories: Top Stories, Firsts & Trends, and Arts & Sports.

Since this is just to page 14 — out of 1000 pages — I'm not going to go through the entire book. But to give you an idea of other topics covered, I'll describe a few. There's health — which includes descriptions of diseases and conditions, food label information, the nutritive value of various foods, and where to get help. Then there's a section called disasters, which has information about nuclear accidents, oil spills, explosions, fires and more. There's also world history; astronomy — includes sun and moon rise and set times for 2004; mileage charts — Portland to Des Moines is 2,505 miles; and all sorts of statistical information — in a 12-month period ending in August 2002, Nabisco Oreos had \$524,557,312 in sales.

To find out more about this book I went to the World Al-

manac Web site (www.worldalmanac.com), where I found a brief description of its history. According to the site, the first edition was published in 1868 by the New York World newspaper and it has since become the "best-selling U.S. reference book of all time, with more than 80 million copies sold since it was first published." It was distributed to GIs all over the world between 1944 and 1946, and apparently Oval Office photographs of John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton show a copy of the "World Almanac" on the desk.

And, in case you are considering being a contestant on Jeopardy, it is regularly cited as a source for the show.

READER REVIEW: This week's book review is from Sophie and the book is Carolyn Mackler's "The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things." Sophie says this book is about "Virginia Shreves, a little larger-than-life average girl whose family has its ups and downs. She still manages to show life can be good to you." Sophie recommends this book because "it's witty and shows you don't have to be skinny to have a life."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclib.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Albany Library's next Second Wednesday event is on Feb. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. Free, in the Edith Stone Room.

The Albany Library and the Alameda County Bar Association offer free legal assistance at the library in the "Lawyer in the Library" program on the first Tuesday evening of each month. To schedule a 15-minute consultation with an attorney, call the library's Reference Desk at 510-526-3720, ext. 5. Advance registration is required. The next dates are March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1.

The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Information: 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

Join local stamp-club ex-

perts at the El Cerrito Library's Stamp Saturday, Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. The experts will provide advice — and freebies.

Everyone from age 6 to 66 and older interested in learning about collecting postage stamps as a hobby is invited.

You can learn the basics of the Internet at the El Cerrito Library's beginning Internet workshops. Practice computer mouse skills, set up e-mail, search the Web, locate library materials in the online catalog, and find the information you need in the library's databases. The workshops are held on alternating Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave. For details, call 510-526-7512.

The Kensington Library celebrate the creator of The Cat in the Hat and other beloved creatures at a Dr. Seuss Birthday Party presented by the Friends of the Kensington Library. The Seuss tribute will feature food, prizes and a special socialization along with a meal of "Green Eggs & Ham," at the Kensington Community Center behind the library parking lot Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. Please note: Tickets are required and will be available on Feb. 17.

Also at Kensington: Family Storytimes for all ages are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled). The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave. Kensington, CA 94707-1000. Phone: 510-524-3043.

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany High School

Get announcements by e-mail. Linda Okamoto at topm@earthlink.net
 Scrip Orders: call Norm Rossman at 510-558-0418, e-mail: norm@norm-ski.com

Albany Middle School

Get announcements by e-mail. Frances Santiago at santiagofrances@hotmail.com

Feb. 9, Site Council Meeting, 6 p.m., Asst. Prin. Conf. Room
 Feb. 11, AHS Chapter of Albany Music Fund Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Library
 Feb. 26, Middle School Night at AHS

(for 8th-grade families), 7 p.m., AHS Little Theater
 Scrip: Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: dorothybmc@yahoo.com

Cornell Elementary School

Get announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradyayer@aol.com
 Scrip: Mark Privett 510-528-2082 or e-mail: privett@pacbell.net

Marin Elementary School

Get announcements by e-mail. Kym Sterner at kymsterner@earthlink.net
 Feb. 26, PTA Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Marin

Scrip: Call Helene Class at 510-524-4902 or e-mail: h.class@att.net

Ocean View Elementary

Feb. 26, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library

AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 10, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Neil Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

Feb. 16-20, mid-winter break
 Items? Call Kay Weinstein 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kstein@yaho.com

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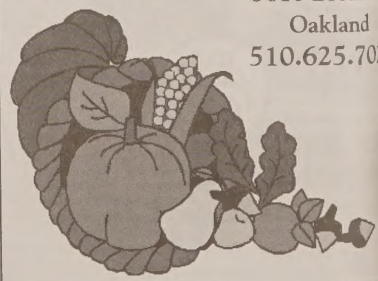


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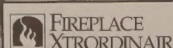


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80th Anniversary Dinner

Berkeley City Club

Thursday, March 4, 2004

No host cocktails: 6:00 P.M.
 Dinner: 7:00 P.M.
 Program: 8:00 P.M.
 Tickets: \$100
 Call 510.649.4965 ext. 312 for tickets

BFHP's anniversary will be honored in conjunction with the first presentation of the Humanitarian Award, which recognizes community members who assist in carrying out the agency's mission to ease and end homelessness in Berkeley.

2004 Humanitarian Award

Roy L. Meisner, Chief of Police and the City of Berkeley Police Department

Hosted by Barbara Rodgers

CBS 5 Eyewitness News Anchor & Bay Sunday Host

Calendar

missions to the Community Cal- must be received Thursdays prior to publication. List- on a space-available basis. Submissions to Ann Fields, 1969 Main Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; to afelds@ccimes.com or fax 510-439-4066.

Benefit

CHS Grad Night Committee is a grab feed fundraiser on Satur- day, Feb. 28, at the Kensington Youth Center, 1247 Marine Ave., 6:30 p.m., din- ing and dancing to 10 p.m., cost: \$35 per person, in- cluding food and prizes. For tickets, call Vicki Berndt at vberndt@com- cast.net or 525-0644.

Children

ment's Social Skills and Man- agement classes are offered in Albany on Tuesdays from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Kensington Youth Center, 1247 Marine Ave., 527-6202.

Support Group meets twice a week on Tuesdays at the UC Berkeley Cancer Research Center, 941 The Alameda, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The group is for parents or care- givers who have a child with cancer. The meeting is co-fa- cilitated by a teen whose mother had cancer, 531-7551.

out books from the Berkeley Jewish Community Center. Spend quality time with your child with the children's librarian, who has Jewish roots or check out books. The library is at 1414 Wal- nut St., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mon- day through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 848-0237.

to offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years designed to offer parents an op- portunity to leave their pre-school chil- dren in a safe atmosphere under quali- fied supervision. The program for ages 2 to 3-12 years meets Mon- day through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Reg- istration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moeser Rd., 525-4371.

Marlin Children's Center of- fers "Support Groups For Moth- ers" for first time mothers and their babies under 5 months. Ex- perimental. Details: 524- 4371.

Class

Berkeley Senior Center 2939 Center St. offers a free aerobics, stretch- ing and fitness class for 65+. The class is taught by Ann. For more information, call 847-0170.

Community

Marie Tooth support group meets quarterly from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Library, 1247 Marine Ave. For more information, call Gail Whitehouse at 845-9229.

Judith L. Magnes Museum, 1414 Walnut St., presents the exhibit "The Story of the Jewish Community in the Jewish L. Magnes Museum" April 25. Hours: Open Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jewish and federal holidays. Ad- mission free. For more information, call 849-8950.

Camera Club meet Tues- day, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

days at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appoint- ment. For an appointment, leave a mes- sage several days before you would like to meet. Anna Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a series of free Com- munity Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the first department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fri- days at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin av- enues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come prac- tice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

"Work Buddies": volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Exhibits

The color photography of Stephen Palmer, UC Berkeley professor of Cognitive Science, will be on display in an exhibit entitled "The Art of Perception" at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, from through April 18. These photographs highlight unusual visual situations such as geometric structure and symmetry in natural patterns and striking color con- trasts between figure and ground. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday. A reception for the artist will be held Jan. 25 from 4-6 p.m.

The exhibit "Early Women of Berke- ley" (1878-1953) and their organizations runs through March 27. The free exhibit, curated by the College Women's Club/Berkeley Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Berkeley Historical Society, cele- brates how women shaped Berkeley's history, working alone and through their clubs. A women's history lecture series is also planned. At the Berkeley History Center, 1931 Center St. 848-0181.

Film/dance/stage

The Berkeley Richmond Jewish Com- munity Center, 1414 Walnut St., pre- sents the film "The Purple Heart (1944)" at 2 p.m. Feb. 8. \$2 suggested donation. A peer-led discussion follows the movie. 510-848-0237.

Cal Performances presents the Merce Cunningham Dance Company at 8 p.m. Feb. 6 and 7, at UC Berkeley's

Zellerbach Hall, 100 Zellerbach Hall. Feb. 6 program features "Biped" and "Ground Level Overlay." Feb. 7 includes "Interscape" and "Soundance." Admis- sion: \$26, \$36, and \$46. Tickets avail- able through Cal Performance Ticket Of- fice; at 510-842-9988 or at the door.

Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience needed. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admis- sion: Adults \$2, kids \$1. Details: 525- 1130.

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Family Folkdancing takes place the third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Working Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Be- ginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Maran- gio at 528-7858.

Health

YWCA Health and Community Educa- tion; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Literary events

Cody's Books presents "City Schools and the American Dream," an evening with Dr. Pedro Noguera on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Community Theater. Pedro Noguera, professor at New York Uni- versity's Steinhardt School of Education and a former member of Berkeley's School Board, will discuss his new book, "City Schools and the American Dream." Tickets \$25 each includes a copy of "City Schools and the American Dream." A portion of the proceeds ben- efits the Berkeley Public Education Foundation. Tickets at Cody's Books: 2454 Telegraph Ave.; 1730 Fourth St. or

Music

The award-winning Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble and Lab Band performs at 8 p.m. Feb. 8, at the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 1111 Addison St. The event is a fund-raiser for the school's music program. Admission: \$15.50 advance, \$16.50 at the door, half price for children 12 and under and \$1 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the club or by phoning 510-548-1761. For more information about Berkeley High School Jazz En- semble visit its Web site at www.berke- leyhighjazz.org.

Cal Performances presents "Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Roma," celebrat- ing the music and dance traditions of the Gypsies at 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, 101 Zeller- bach Hall. Admission: \$22, \$28 and \$38. Tickets available through Cal Per- formances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall: 510-642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

De Rompe y Raja, a cultural associ- ation devoted to the preservation of Afro-Peruvian music and dance pre- sents lead singer Marina Lavalle and master choreographer and percussionist Lalo Izquierdo at 8:30 p.m. Feb. 7. Location: La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Tickets: \$15. For more in- formation, call 510-849-2568 or visit the Web site at www.lapena.org.

Outdoors

The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Strawberry Canyon, offers a free sick plant clinic on the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. Dr. Raabe will di- agnose. Details: 843-2755.

Learn to feed and care for or- phaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by re- habilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Leila 655-3911.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sun- days 2 p.m. Special tours by appoint- ment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Religion

Support

Berkeley Parkinson's Support Group holds monthly meetings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda @ Los Angeles. Scheduled dates: Feb. 9, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20 Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20. Caregivers, families and others are welcome. Free parking in the back. For more information, call 510-524-4847.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-East Bay Chapter holds its next monthly family support group meeting from 7 to 8:45 p.m. Feb. 11, at the Claremont Branch of the Berkeley Pub- lic Library. Meetings offer families a chance to share information and get emotional support. The public is invited to this free program. For more infor- mation, call NAMI-East Bay at 510-524- 1250.

If you have lost someone you love to cancer, come for gentle guidance through the basic steps of grieving at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 5741 Telegraph Ave. Grief Informa- tion Sessions take place from 6-7:30

p.m. Dec. 8, or 6-7:30 p.m. Dec. 22. RSVP 510-420-7900 for more infor- mation, or visit www.wccr.org.

Overeaters Anonymous- Have a problem with food? Twelve-step support groups dealing with these issues meet at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at Mandana Com- munity Recovery Center, 3989 Howe St. in Oakland (enter on 41st Street Way); 7:30 Wednesdays at Piedmont Commu- nity Church, 400 Highland (enter on Mountain, parallel to Highland); 7:30 Thursdays at Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street; and 6 p.m. Fridays at East Bay Church of Religious Science, 4130 Telegraph Ave. 510-923-9491.

Jewish Family and Children's Ser- vices of the East Bay offers the follow- ing community support groups.

Divorce Support Group: Pre-regis- tration required. Wednesday evenings, Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Walnut Creek. Call Dr. Carla Haimowitz at 925-927-2000.

Bereavement Support Groups: No Charge. Pre-registration required. Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m., JFCS/East Bay in Berkeley, 510-704-7480 ext. 968. Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m., JFCS/East Bay in Walnut Creek, 925-927-2000 ext. 740.

Cancer Support Group: No charge. Tuesdays from 12:30 - 2 p.m., Mark- ston Center, room 2810, 2nd floor, 450 30th Street, Oakland. Call 510-869- 8833.

Support Group for Women 60 Years and Older: Finally, a special group for older single women. Explore new op- tions for coping with life transitions, making new friendships, dealing with family and peer relationships, and changing old habits. Pre-registration re- quired. Second and fourth Mondays from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Berkeley Rich- mond Jewish Community Center. Fee: \$10/session. Call Marti Kutnik LCSW at 510-704-7480 ext. 740.

See CALENDAR, Page A8

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Kid Stuff

BARNES & NOBLE, OAKLAND — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's Book Area. The Friday reading is for preschoolers.

Free. Second Friday, 11 a.m.; Third Saturday, 1 p.m.; Second Sunday, 2 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-272-0120.

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — A state-of-the-art facility uniting all science education activities around astronomy.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Escape from the Red Planet," through Feb. 29. Become the crew of a doomed Mars landing in this one-hour simulated space mission. The mission is to get the shuttle working again and into orbit before it is hit by the worst dust storm ever recorded on Mars. Participants will become critical members of a team working to complete the mission using math, science, teamwork, problem-solving, responsible decision-making and communication skills. Limited space so participants are admitted on a first-come basis. Not for children under age 6; children ages 6 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. \$10 general; \$5 children ages 6 to 12. 510-336-7355.

"Rovers on Mars," Feb. 14, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This Family Science Workshop is for families with children ages 4 to 8. Come learn about the recent landings of the two Mars Exploration Rovers. Operate a remote controlled Mars Rover, build a candy rover and visit the "Mars Encounter" exhibit for the latest updates on the planet. Reservations required. In the Biology Lab. \$20 general; \$10 youths. 510-336-7311.

"Rosie Rosetta Rendezvous," Feb. 29, 10:30 a.m. to noon. This Family Science Workshop is for families with children ages 8 and up. Rosetta is a European Space Agency mission de-

signed to rendezvous with the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in 2014 and perform remote sensing investigations. It will carry two probes to land on the comet's surface. Come learn about the mission, see a short slide show on comets and make your own comet in the classroom. Advance registration required. In the Biology Lab. \$10 to \$20 general; \$10 youths. 510-336-7311.

Center Admission: \$11 general; \$8 seniors and youths ages 4 to 12; free children ages 3 and under. Planetarium or Megadome Theater: \$6 general; \$5 seniors and youths ages 4 to 12; free children ages 3 and under. Friday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org.

CHILDREN'S FAIRLAND USA — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, story-telling and lots of slides and animals.

PUPPET SHOWS — All shows are at the Open Storybook Theatre. They perform Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Free with regular Fairland admission.

"Rapunzel," closing Feb. 14. A young girl is locked in a tower by a witch for 21 years for destroying radishes. Her long hair grows down to the ground from the tower window and the witch uses this to climb up into the tower to speak with Rapunzel, who she has grown to love as her own child. A Prince sees Rapunzel one day and climbs up the tower to take her away. The witch finds them, sees they are in love, and goes away leaving them the tower for a wedding present.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Owen Baker Flynn, Feb. 7 and Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. An "Act in a Box" with

juggling, fire eating and other surprises.

"Insect Songs," Feb. 14 and Feb. 15, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sandy and Steve will sing songs that encourage living in harmony with nature.

\$6 general includes unlimited rides, puppet shows, guest entertainers and special shows; free children under age 1; \$2 for a Magic Key. No adult admitted without a child and no child admitted without an adult. Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting, 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-452-2259 or www.fairland.org.

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM — A museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

\$5 general; \$6 children ages 7 and under; free children under 12 months. Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2065 Kitredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111 or www.habitot.org.

HALL OF HEALTH — EXHIBITS — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health. "Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned. "Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies. "Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

Suggested \$3 donation; free children under 3. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

JUNIOR CENTER OF ART AND SCIENCE — A center dedicated to encouraging children's active wonder

and creative response through artistic and scientific exploration of their natural urban environment. The center's classes, workshops, exhibits and events integrate art and science.

EXHIBITS — Three educational exhibits are mounted in the "Children's Gallery" each year. A docent-led tour, demonstrations, hands-on activities and art projects are available to school groups throughout the year.

"African American Inventors," through April 6. An exhibit that highlights a selection of contributions that African American inventors and scientists have made to American society. Historical and contemporary inventors will be represented.

Free; programs and special exhibits have a fee. Through May. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 558 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-839-5777 or www.juniorcenter.org.

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE — EXHIBITS — "Soul of Science," through Feb. 29. An exhibit that explores the connection between the musical, artistic and scientific expertise of some of the Bay Area's prominent innovators.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Meet Sproul the Police Dog," Feb. 7 and Feb. 8. The patrol dog will strut her stuff and prove her ability to find dangerous materials. Saturday, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.

"Dominoes and Drums: The Math of Soul," Feb. 14, noon to 2 p.m. Learn how games and rhythm are related to math with musician Edwin Anderson.

\$8.50 general; \$6.50 seniors, students, disabled, and youths ages 5 to 18; \$4.50 children ages 3 to 4; free children ages 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S ART — A museum of art for and by children, with activities for children to participate in making their own art.

EXHIBITS — "See Us," through Feb. 27. An exhibit of works including ceramics, wood sculptures, collages, prints and paintings, by blind or visually impaired children and young adults. Reception, Feb. 19, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. "Then and Now," open-ended. An ex-

hibit of the work of children's book illustrators. The exhibit includes current works from the artists and works from the artists' childhoods.

FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZAS — Special weekend workshops for the entire family.

"Sunday Workshops with Illustrators," Sundays, 1 p.m. See the artwork and meet the artists who create children's book illustrations. Free.

Free gallery admission. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 538 Ninth St., Oakland. 510-465-8770 or www.mocha.org.

OAKLAND ZOO — The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site-specific exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna," with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits; the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant), with African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing four million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Siamang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

EXHIBIT — "Mountain Lions!" ongoing. An exhibit designed to educate people about the mountain lion, its habitat, physiology, and history in California, and the myths that surround these mammals. In addition there is a film titled "Cougar: Elusive Predator" by the Discovery Channel in the Children's Theater. At the Education Center. Open daily during zoo hours. Free with regular zoo admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Critic Crafts," Feb. 8 through Feb. 22. A three-class series of animal art projects for children ages 3 to 5 and their parents. Learn about a different animal each week and take home a corresponding

craft. Pre-registration required. day, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Feb. 9, 9:55 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"Animal Amore! Valentine's Day," Feb. 14, 11 a.m. to noon. Special walking tours with fun, steamy facts about animals and mating habits, gestation and care of young. Not open for children under age 12. Regular zoo admission and tickets required. 510-632-9892.

\$8.50 general; \$5 seniors and youths ages 2 to 14; free children ages 2 to 4; \$4 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Knowland Park, 5577 Knowland Ave., Hayward. 510-882-0000 or www.oaklandzoo.org.

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — AREA — "Kids Garden Quest," 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build a model house for the winter season. Registration required. 510-525-2299.

"Botanic Garden Foray," Feb. 10, noon. Search for slithering other early bloomers in the plant oasis.

"Valentine's Day Card Workshop," 8, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Make a card or design your own about the cultural history of Valentine's Day. \$5 to \$7.

"Sushi for the More Adventurous," 14, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn about the bounty and taste of the sea, especially more exotic For ages 8 and older. Children 10 to 18 must be accompanied. Registration required. \$10. \$35 to \$39 general; \$30 youths; \$20 to \$22 children 10 to 18.

"Who Eats Who? Owl Pellet Party," Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about the meals of owl home with a skeleton. \$4.

"Early Bloomers," Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Admire the early bloomers including milkmaids and learn their natural history.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANICAL — Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times. A firm tour is on for the day, days and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Free unless noted otherwise. off Wildcat Canyon Road and Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. 510-223-0000 or www.ebparks.org.

Calendar

FROM PAGE A7

— Interfaith Couples Group: Thursdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Berkeley. Call Cathy Diamond, MFT at 510-704-7480 ext. 225.

— Social Skills and Anger Management for Boys: A special group for 7-9 year old boys expressing anger and other feelings inappropriately, or are having difficulty making and keeping friends. Pre-registration required. Mondays, 4-5:15 p.m. at Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Berkeley. Fee: \$40/session. Sliding scale and medical accepted. Call David Edelson, MA, MFT at 510-704-7480 ext. 267.

■ **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**—East Bay Chapter sponsors a support group to provide information and support to families of children and adolescents with mental illness. The next meeting is from 7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 18, at Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Stannage St., in Albany. Support meetings are free and offer parent and other family members a chance to talk with others in order to share information and get emotional support. For more information, call NAMI-East Bay at 510-524-1250.

■ **Women's Cancer Resource Center** offers support groups throughout the Bay area. If you are interested in attending a group, call the Helpline at 510-420-7900 during the Center's open hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 12 to 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays.

■ **Bereavement Support Group** meets Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m. at Jewish Family and Children's Services in Walnut Creek. Topics include dealing with loneliness, isolation, anger and other unexpected emotions; changing family dynamics; and re-establishing connections with your community. Receive support in a warm, Jewish context. No charge (donations accepted). Pre-registration required. Call Marit Kunkin, LCSW at 925-227-0007 ext. 740. This group is jointly sponsored by Sinai Memorial Chapel and Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay.

Volunteers

■ **University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley** seeks volunteers. Opportunities include becoming a docent and learning to lead garden tours, growing plants for plant sale as a propagator, working in the Garden Shop or entrance Kiosk, assisting with horticultural or curatorial tasks, and helping with membership, special events and office support. For more information, call Candice Schott, at 510-643-1924 or e-mail at cschott@uclink4.berkeley.edu.

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...PAGE 1

PAGE A1

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GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF



FROM PAGE 1

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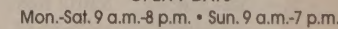
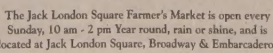
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Real Estate & Home

ing supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmonter

Friday, February 6, 2004

Section B

this a resurrection or a rescue mission?

ley buyer sets out
ore a classic French
cial home in the
mont District.

rea Tiller recently retired as
o of a Bay Area medical-
y firm, and in the fall of
e purchased a lovely home
in the heart of Berkeley's
Claremont district. She
ut some changes had to be
ut it was difficult to know
o begin.

ure windows to let in more
stairs? Add a new master
tasty, the aesthetic consis-
the original French provin-
of the house was basically
ause over the years, it had
occupied by many different
and/or tenants.

oor plan was choppy and
she did not feel whole — so
goal was to pull the house
to "one piece." Initially, she
overwhelmed with the task
of getting settled: all her
went into opening all those
boxes just hoping to find
the basics such as bath
and her car opener!

occupying the house for a
ents, she came to the con-
that she had spent a lot of
buying the house and that
ries of the house deserved
ocused approach. She be-
search for a good architect

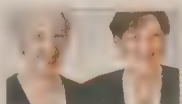
and in *Architectural Trends* maga-
zine, she read about Dan Phipps,
an architect who had worked on
several Bay Area projects.

When they met, Andrea found
Dan to be tremendously talented
and he understood the vision that
she had in mind for the house. She
hired him on the spot — and Phase
One of her three-phase project be-
gan in earnest in the fall of 2003.

The architect was full of great
ideas such as opening up more
space in the living room and cre-
ating a new dining room on the
main floor of the house, followed
by designing and building a new
master bedroom including the ad-
dition of a master bath upstairs. An-
other important design change was
that of re-routing the main entrance
to the house.

The original address was on
Tunnel Road, but somewhere along
the way, one of the owners had cre-
ated a second entrance from the
back of the property and Andrea
liked the idea of the more secluded
entrance. So, she and the architect
worked out a design for a path
through the rear garden that leads
to the main front entrance of the
house.

Eventually, she plans to build a
sound wall that will shield the house
even more from the Tunnel Road
traffic noise.) Since Andrea admits
she was "budgetarily challenged,"
her project became one of Dan's
smaller ones.



JUDITH GLASS & SHEILA SABINE
House Talk

Judith Glass was recently priv-
ileged to have a tour of the Phase
One work that is in progress under
the watchful eye of local super-
builder McCutcheon Construction,
and she was amazed and im-
pressed by Andrea's complete im-
mersion and total involvement in
the project.

Everywhere throughout the
house, there are books and maga-
zines that are Andrea's constant
companions as she continues mak-
ing design decisions about the fu-
ture of the house.

She has decided to create more
color consistency — the future color
scheme will be based on hues of
warm Tuscan gold. All of the door
knobs will be the same gold French
finish, the lighting fixtures will all be
of a similar design, the new bath
will be entirely marble, and other
fancy touches will be added here
and there. Andrea believes that
"fancy touches" have to do with the
design of the object, not necessari-
ly the materials.

See GLASS=SABINE, Page B2

Real Estate Spotlight:

Breathtaking views from Oakland home



THE DISTINGUISHED THREE-YEAR-OLD HOME at 13494 Campus Drive in the Oakland hills designed by Phillip Perkins embodies grand flowing spaces, an exquisite open floor plan, quality craftsmanship and magnificent canyon views.

Warm and inviting, this spacious home offers separation of space or wings built around a central courtyard. Beautiful archways separate the grand living room with its soaring ceilings, limestone floors and elegant alcoves from graceful walkways and private courtyard. The formal dining room opens to a spacious terrace. The front wing also includes a handsome library and full bath. The rear wing opens to a fabulous kitchen with large island, Wolf range and breakfast area. The family room features a private terrace with canyon views, fireplace and access to the central courtyard.

The upper level offers a dramatic open walkway overlooking the main floor. The luxurious master retreat offers a fireplace, private terrace, and luxurious master bath and all have breathtaking canyon views. A second bedroom suite with private bath, and two additional bedrooms and a bath, complete the up-
stairs. Three-car garage with interior access.

Price: \$1,695,000.

Listing agent: Sherry Benninger, The Grubb Co., 510-339-0404, Ext. 240, www.sherrybenninger.com includes a photo tour.

guide to finding a real estate agent

BY JENNIFER PLOTNICK

THE BAKERSPRIDE CALIFORNIA

Billboards, business cards, vis-
its to neighborhoods.

Real estate agents use many
tactics and methods to gain new
clients. But how does a potential
home buyer or seller narrow down
the choices without drawing blindly
out of a hat?

Interviewing several agents is a
start.

"Treat it like an interview for a
job," said Sheila Henderson, a Re-
altor with Coldwell Banker Preferred
Realtors.

The potential client should ask
the agent for a profile or resume as
well as references from satisfied
clients, Henderson said.

Not only should the person con-
tact the references, they also should
ask agents how they plan to get the
job done. Will the agent be acces-
sible to the client during hours that
work for both? Potential clients who
wish to sell their house can also ask
agents to come to their house and
deliver a presentation, said Theresa
Olson, sales manager at KW Asso-
ciates, Realtors. During the pre-
sentation, an agent will likely give

an estimated value of the house as
well as their marketing strategy.

Services offered "Find out ex-
actly what kind of marketing strat-
egy they have," Olson said. If the
person wants to sell an upper-level
home, the agent likely wouldn't tar-
get buyers who live in apartments,
she said. The agent might target
country club members.

They should also contact other
agents to tell them they're listing
the house, she said.

The client should also find out
more about the agent's negotiating
skills, Olson said. That can be done

through a hypothetical situation.

Say, for example, a house is
listed to sell for \$300,000 but the of-
fer is for \$250,000. The client could
ask the agent how they would ef-
fectively counter, she said.

During the interview process,
clients need to be sure their goals
are the same as those of the agent,
said Michele Lancaster, a Realtor
with Coldwell Banker Preferred. If a
potential buyer wants to find a
house within the next two weeks,
for example, he or she needs to
make sure their sales person will
share that urgency.

What type of service the agent
offers should also be considered.
If Alan Cole's callers don't im-
mediately reach him, they get his cell
phone voice mail, which states he
will get back to them within 10 min-
utes. Unless he's going to a spe-
cial event, that's the time frame he
sticks by, said Cole, a Realtor with
Kyle Carter Real Estate.

When a prospective client inter-
views Cole, he doesn't immediately
launch into a sales pitch, instead

See FIND, Page B2

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Kathy Close

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Real Estate Focus:

Enchanting Victorian-style home in Berkeley



JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE GOURMET GHETTO ON SHATTUCK AVENUE is a sweet Victorian-style home that was built in 1907. Unlike some of the grander Victorians, this home has a warm, very family-friendly feel, as well as the elegance associated with this style.

At the front, there is a stunning, almost circular living room with four large windows full of light, a fireplace and a handsome mantel. The living room opens to a gracious formal dining room with a built-in leaded glass china hutch, ceiling and window moldings, crystal chandelier, and a lovely view of the garden. The beautiful and unique kitchen has huge windows and a low cabinets, as well as a functioning 1924 stove. Adjacent is a solarium/utility room with a tile floor and a hidden laundry area. Through the solarium you can see a very private, large backyard with a birch grove, decks, walks, and a hot tub.

Up the stairs are three large bedrooms with lots of character, as well as large closets. One bedroom, above the living room, has the same almost-circular lines as the living room, and also has a sizable alcove — a perfect reading room. Another bedroom has a cozy sleeping nook, skylight, and a walk-in closet. There is one bathroom upstairs with a clawfoot tub.

Price: \$499,000.

Agent: Phyllis Hewett, Marvin Gardens, Kensington, 510-524-0800.

Find

FROM PAGE B1

preferring to listen and determine whether they can work together well. When showing a house to them, if the client doesn't like it, Cole says he won't push them.

"Realtors need to listen to what the client is looking for and not push them in another direction," Cole said. Years after a sale, Cole doesn't want his name to be linked with a bad experience.

Ethical standards, training All real estate agents must be licensed. But many choose to take an additional step and become a Realtor. Realtors must sign a code of ethics developed by the National Association of Realtors, said Polly Hamm, executive director of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors. The person vows to adhere to the code, which is in addition to real estate and state law.

Realtors vow they will protect and promote their client's interest and will be honest with all parties involved. They are to avoid exaggeration, misrepresentation and concealing pertinent information. They are to be knowledgeable and competent, and they must also disclose if they have current or contemplated interest in the property.

"We're promising to be the best we can be," Lancaster said.

"I want a client for life," she said, hoping to achieve that through professional and honest business dealings.

If trying to decide on an agent based on receiving several business cards, she suggests looking for designations after the person's name. Those will indicate extra training.

Lancaster, for example, is taking courses toward the Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI) designation and will add it to her cards when she earns it.

Experienced vs. new agents There are benefits to choosing an agent who's been in the business for decades as well as an up-and-comer.

An experienced agent has expertise and can pinpoint when the market may fluctuate, Olson said. A new agent will have up-to-date training and enthusiasm. They may also hustle more because they know they have to prove themselves.

"Don't turn away from a new agent because they are new," said Greg Harvey, general manager with Touchstone Real Estate Group, Inc. "They may be more aware of what's (new)."

After all the options are weighed, deciding who to pick may come down to personality, Olson said.

Glass-Sabine

FROM PAGE B1

No stranger to the remodeling process — this is the eighth property that she has bought and then carefully renovated — Andrea claims to be energized and excited about this long-term project.

In remodeling, she is motivated partly by the need to be creative and partly by the need to heal a wounded bird — to help the house reach its true potential.

"It does not occur to me that I am being brave and courageous — it's just plain fun."

Following Phase One, we will continue our dialogue with Andrea and follow the progress of the work. Watch this space for details of Phase II in which she will concentrate on garden landscaping, walls and other exterior details.

You may contact the residential real estate team of Judith Glass and Sheila Sabine at 510-326-5055 or through their Web site at www.GlassSabine.com.

TIPS FOR PICKING AN AGENT

■ Know the difference between a licensed sales person and a Realtor. A Realtor adheres to a real estate code of ethics developed by the National Association of Realtors.

■ Ask family, friends for recommendations.

■ Is the company the agent works for open weekends and evenings?

■ Does that company actually handle calls from clients?

■ Interview several agents.

■ Watch for negotiation skills.

— Source: Sheila Sabine

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

on real estate, their real estate clients and choosing the right agent.

■ Michele Lancaster, Coldwell Banker: "My clients never have any of my clients. I want them to be with me and their purchase."

■ Alan Cole, Realtor Carter Real Estate: "I am a salesperson at the door, then (the client) wants to be treated."

■ Greg Harvey, general manager of Touchstone Real Estate, Inc.: "If you had a great experience with that's the way to go."

■ Theresa Olson, sales with KW Associates: "I don't want to be a salesperson, I want to be a strategy they (the agent) want to be treated."

■ Sheila Henderson, Coldwell Banker: "Most of the time, I want to 'fall into' their Realtor."

WANT TO CHECK

on a real estate agent? A consumer who check the status of a license or see if the agent disciplinary action can be taken from the state of California.

Real Estate's Web site at www.dre.ca.gov/licstatus

Banking on your brokerage account

Conventional wisdom tells you that if you want to save money, put it in the bank. And savings accounts are a long-established way to protect your hard-earned cash. But while your local bank may be the first place you think about depositing your money, you may be surprised to learn about the many options available to you at other financial services companies.

Brokerage firms are commonly thought of as simply a place to buy and sell stocks, but in reality they offer a good deal more. If you have become accustomed to receiving certain products and services from your bank, it is worth noting that some of these same products and services can be accessed through other financial institutions, such as a brokerage firm.

Consequently, if you find that you have a substantial amount of money in a traditional savings account, you may want to invest those dollars in a different type of account that will allow you to consolidate your holdings. Let us take a look at some of the account features with which you are probably

most familiar and see what a brokerage firm has to offer.

One of the most familiar services of your basic financial account is the ability to write checks. What you may not have been aware of is the fact that brokerage accounts offer this service as well. Depending on the type of account you set up, you may be able to take advantage of unlimited check writing, with no minimum dollar amount per check.

Some of the more popular features of your financial accounts today are convenience items resulting from the technological advances of the last decade or so. Just about anywhere you go, you do not have to worry about having cash on hand to make purchases.

Debit card transactions allow you to pay for goods or services by simply swiping a card at the register, authorizing funds to be debited directly from your account. And when you return home, you can keep track of all your deposits and credits by accessing your account online from your home computer.

These services — debit cards and online account information — are both features that are commonly available through a brokerage firm. With some types of accounts, you can even access research reports to help you plan your next investment moves.

While some banks may provide a few products for retirement planning, working with a brokerage firm affords you a wide variety of investment alternatives associated with retirement savings.

More importantly, you will have access to a financial consultant who will sit down with you and tailor every aspect of your investment plan to your individual needs.

These are just a few of the basic options available at a brokerage firm; a financial consultant can explain all the advantages to you. Savings accounts are a great way to put aside money for future use, but with all the features available on a brokerage account, you may just find that you don't necessarily want to take all your money to the bank.



LEILA GOUGH
Money Matters

The underlying investment for a brokerage account is a money market mutual fund. Your financial consultant can provide you with a prospectus for the fund, which contains more complete information—including charges and expenses—and should be read carefully before investing or sending money.

Money market funds are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency, and the checking account is not FDIC insured either. Although the fund is managed to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1 per share, the value of the fund will fluctuate and you could lose money.

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President with A. G. Edwards, in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

Avoid dry rot, mildew, mold

■ Residential drainage systems focus of next Saturday's free seminar

TRUITT & WHITE

Water can be the nemesis for homeowners and builders alike. Improper drainage systems do the most damage. Dry rot, mildew and mold which can result from the lack of or improper drainage are not only serious health hazards, but they are expensive and difficult to repair or eliminate.

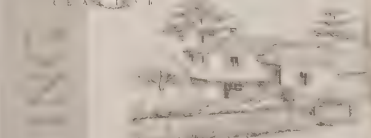
Greg Casorso of Casorso Construction specializes in drainage installations and solutions. He will present information on how to evaluate and implement effective drainage systems at a traditionally filled-to-capacity event next Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 to 11 a.m.

Reservations are required and refreshments will be served. Call 510-649-2674 or register on-line at www.truittandwhite.com/seminars to reserve your space.

This popular seminar will be held at the Truitt and White Conference Room 1817 Second St. in Berkeley. For more information, call 510-841-0511.

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Thinking of buying or selling?

Realtor Terry Kulka may have the answers to all your questions. Join her from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow at the Piedmont Adult School for "Take the Confusion out of Purchasing Your Home."

Next Saturday, Feb. 14, at the same time, join her for "Thinking of Selling Your Home.?" Call 510-594-2716 to register or come to Room 11 at Piedmont High the day of the class. Call Terry at 510-339-4789.

Real Estate & Home

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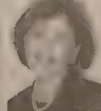
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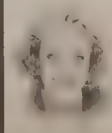
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Market for Realtors continues to boom

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
STAFF WRITER, NEWSPAPERS

How many agents take to sell real estate? These days, the answer is a million.

In every segment of the housing market except housing faltering in the last three years, the number of real estate agents has increased beyond anyone's expectations.

There are 962,000 dues-paying members of the National Association of Realtors, an increase of more than 200,000 in those years. In fact, the size of the increase has confounded the industry who held technology, which gives consumers greater access to information, would control the real estate agents and brokers.

John Tuccillo, former chief economist with the Realtors' Council, has long contended that the market is a shakeout. "You would think what is happening is a shakeout," he said. "When they lose their jobs, become unemployed and sell off their real estate and sell off \$5 million in real estate looks like a shakeout."

But because half of the agents in the business can't justify being in the business, it doesn't seem to matter. "When the market goes bust, economists inside and out of the housing industry don't think it's a shakeout. It's a boom goes bust."

John Duffy, broker/owner of Duffy Real Estate in Narberth, Pa., and Wayne, Pa., said many of the newcomers were misreading the signs.

"They see all the sold signs, multiply the number by 6 percent (commission), and think it would be easy to make a living," Duffy said. "What they don't realize is that they should divide that number by 4, because that is about what they will earn after expenses, if they are lucky."

In other words, 1.5 percent goes to the agent.

Noelle Barbone, a broker and manager of Weichert Realtors' Paoli, Pa., office, believes that the industry has benefited to some extent from the influx of newcomers.

"Corporate mergers have brought some top-notch professionals into the business that is giving us a nice mix of backgrounds," she said.

And Artur and others believe that more immigrants and minorities are being attracted to the ranks. Since these two groups are the source of a growing number of buyers, it makes perfect sense.

Ninety percent of Realtors are white, compared with 92 percent in the Realtor group's 2001 survey. Black, Hispanic and Asian Realtors now make up 10 percent of the group.

Groups such as the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals encourage non-Hispanic agents and brokers to work with Spanish-speaking buyers and sellers to increase homeownership rates.

The Hispanic agents' group doesn't send a great message to consumers," said Christopher J. Artur, a veteran broker in Philadelphia's Mayfair neighborhood, who began selling real estate while attending Pennsylvania State University in 1976.

Not of people in other fields can moonlight as estate agents to supplement incomes," Artur said. But it is more than a part-time occupation, "especially when deal with first-time buyers

who need face-to-face contact and have you accessible all the time."

Having people going in and out of that revolving door "doesn't result in professionalism by any stretch of the imagination," he said.

More women than men tend to be part-time agents, the survey showed. Despite the recent influx, the typical Realtor has 13 years' experience, while almost 24 percent have 16 to 25 years in the business.

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who need face-to-face contact and have you accessible all the time."

Let's do it for the kids . . . well, maybe not

Number 452 in a series of true experiences in real estate

When I was young, newly married, and renting an apartment for the first time, my grandfather drove me by an orchard, in full bloom commenting that grandma and he used to own that land. Probably because I was full of nesting thoughts, I found the sight of the orchard enchanting. I easily imagined a little cottage, clothes on the line, standing there among the flowering trees, a place that my husband and I could nestle into.

But the land belonged to someone else. It was not to be mine. I asked my grandfather why they'd sold it. "Taxes," he said. "No sense in paying the taxes on it."

Recently, I remembered that orchard again (no doubt worth a small fortune now) when my ex-husband asked if Anet and I would list for sale his property in Oakland's Rockridge neighborhood. Along with partners, he and I had bought the property — three beautiful old apartments — while we were still married and our children were very young. As we did work on the building, buffing and refinishing it, we confirmed that it was an investment for our kids.

Maybe we'd use the equity to pay for college. Or, if our kids didn't go to college, when they left home, maybe they'd live there. Certainly we hoped to pass it along to them when we died.

Things changed. Our partners decided to move on to other ventures, and so we bought them out. A few years later, my husband and I separated. He moved into one of the apartments at the property and the kids lived there, part of the week with him, the rest with me.

After several years, feeling strongly that East Bay living was simply too expensive, my ex moved to northern California and, after much negotiation, we belatedly divided up our assets. He got the triplex. Now he wanted to sell, saying that he was certainly sorry. He'd prefer to keep it for our kids, he said, but he'd remarried and he and his wife would like to do some traveling while they're still in reasonable health.

Also, managing from a distance is difficult. Tenants change, repairs need to be made, workmen met. I understood. Owning rental property is a business that demands time and care and money. But I wondered if there was a way for me to save this asset, a clever plan to make it available for our kids.

Anet and I did some research and came up with a probable sale price. My ex talked to his tax person and got an estimate of the cash he would net from the sale after paying income taxes. The taxes are large; he wouldn't get nearly as much money as either of us had at first guessed.

And so, for several days, Anet and I talked about how I might pay my ex to keep the property. I'd have to raise the cash, which I thought I could do. And we'd have to have

some sort of agreement that the property would be left to the children as their inheritance. Probably that was doable.

But there remained one stumbling block, a big one: Someone would have to manage the property, and I didn't want it to be me.

A professional manager could be hired. But as both my ex and I feel strongly about personal devotion to the health and upkeep of property, I just couldn't imagine hiring someone. The kids aren't at a place yet where they could take care of things, and I don't know when they might be.

Over and over again I asked myself if I could take on the running of this property? The cost of living here, the costs of buying a home are so large that it would be a tremendous assist to the kids to have this property.

Also, if they inherited it from their dad, they'd retain his pre-proposition 13 property taxes. And, if they chose to sell it, they would not have to pay the same high capital gains taxes their dad faces.

All are strong arguments for holding onto property already owned, just like my grandparents' orchard. But also like that orchard, there are costs for holding on. For me, it wasn't the taxes that were making me reluctant. It was the time and effort necessary.

I finally decided I couldn't do it. The property would be sold. We listed it, had some cleaning and painting and staging done, tweaked

some fine details, and put it on the market.

It's a wonderful property, handsome, well maintained, in a great location. A lot of people thought so. Crowds of buyers and agents came to our open houses and we gave out, unprecedented for us, 47 disclosure packages to those requesting them. There were 13 offers to buy.

So many people found the property appealing, including the winning buyer who will be living there, that the sale price is beyond what I could have matched. I could not have found or borrowed enough money to buy it for my kids.

They won't be inheriting this property from their dad, which is too bad, but I'm trying to be philosophical about it. I don't believe that children are owed an inheritance and, anyway, maybe they'll want to live in another area, one with housing that regular working people can afford.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoffandtalbert.com.



TARPOFF AND TALBERT
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Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Inform
The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting sponsored by the Alameda Association of Realtors. The next meeting is 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. You are invited to "Laugh Yourself Safe" presented by Crime Stop USA. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings. For more information contact Mary Canizzaro of AAR at 510-523-7229.

Workshop
Ever wonder if you could own a home? Attend the "Let's Get Started-Homeownership Workshop," at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9. The class is in the conference room of the Lake Merritt Professional Building, on Grand Avenue in Oakland. This is for all types of borrowers, even those with less than

perfect credit. Find out if you qualify and get started on your future now. Call the Loan Arranger William Pettaway of Olympia Funding at 925-469-2229.

How-To
"How To Buy Your First or Next Home" is held at Ryan's Antiques in Hayward. Learn about the variety of loan programs available and how much house you can afford. Join presenters Aileen Matteson of Coldwell Banker and Jeff McGary of Frontier Mortgage for the next session, 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19. Contact Matteson for a reservation at 510-888-2105.

Alliance
The National Association of Realtors is a member of the Homeownership Alliance. The organization is dedicated to preserving, promoting and expanding housing opportunities for all Americans. NAR is one of five organizations on the Alliance's board of directors. This will ensure Realtors have a seat at the table when decisions are made concerning national housing policy.

To find out more about NAR visit www.realtor.org.

e-PRO

Free. The National Association of Realtors supports the only online technology certification program called e-PRO. The Alameda Association of Realtors is offering a free introduction to the course, 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12. International Speaker Saul Klein tells how becoming an e-PRO will differentiate you from the competition. The course is approved for 12 CE credit hours. Contact Mary Canizzaro at 510-523-7229 or staff@alamedaaar.org to register.

RENTALS

Landlords can eliminate 90 percent of tenant problems with the Free Landlord Workshop. The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County presents the class. Learn about new laws, required notices, screening tips and more. Reservations are required. Call for February workshop dates



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at 510-893-9873 or visit www.rhanac.org.

ARPB

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast," from 8 to 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18. The new location is Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo, in Oakland. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call Tyrone Cooley of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

See REID, Page B4

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California sellers reaped record gain in 2003

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Propelled by double-digit price appreciation that was twice that of the nation, California homesellers reaped a record median gain of \$150,000 in 2003, according to the "State of the Housing Market 2003" report by the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.).

"Net cash to sellers has never been higher since C.A.R. began conducting our annual survey of the California housing market," said C.A.R. Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young. "Sellers in 2003 realized an 8 percent annualized rate of return, far exceeding the returns on many other investment options."

C.A.R. has conducted its annual housing market survey since 1981.

For buyers, robust price appreciation impacted the home financing component of the purchase transaction, according to the report.

"As the median home price soared to historic highs, the median downpayment rose by 20 percent in 2003 to \$59,000," Appleton-Young said. "There also was a \$60,000 gap between the median downpayment of a repeat buyer (\$86,950) and that of a first-time buyer (\$25,500)."

The "State of the Housing Market 2003" report also revealed that

Sellers in 2003 realized an 8 percent annualized rate of return, far exceeding the returns on many other investment options

nearly one out of four transactions in 2003 involved a second mortgage, an 18 percent increase compared to 2002 and well above the 20-year record low of 4.4 percent in 1988, but below that of the 1980 when their use exceeded 40 percent.

To purchase C.A.R.'s "State of the Housing Market 2003" call 213-739-8352 or e-mail maryp@car.org. Cost for an electronic version is \$29.95 for C.A.R. members and \$59.90 for non-members; and \$49.95 for a hard copy for C.A.R. members and \$99.90 for non-members.

The California Association of Realtors is one of the largest state trade organizations in the United States, with more than 130,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate. C.A.R. is headquartered in Los Angeles.

Reid

FROM PAGE B3

HOUSING

The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County offers a membership meeting monthly. Non-members are also invited to attend. The next meeting is 6:45 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19. The meeting is held at the Greek Orthodox Church, on Lincoln Avenue, in Oakland. For information and registration call the RHANAC office at 510-893-9873.

LORDSHIPS

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date is Friday, Feb. 20. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30. The location is H's Lordships in Berkeley. For reservations call WCR President, Patricia Bouie Hinds of Classic Investments at 510-834-0702 or bouiehinds@sbcglobal.net.

COMMERCIAL

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 12, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster Street. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

ster Street. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

6100 TOYS

Coldwell Banker of Northern California collected over 6100 toys and 1300 coats for needy families. The collections benefited Toys For Tots and Operation: One Warm Coat charity programs. For 16 years Coldwell Banker has been an official sponsor of both programs. For more information visit www.CaliforniaMoves.com.

CREDITS

The California Association of Realtors offers customizable versions of its continuing education courses. This is intended to meet individual Realtors needs. Create your own 45-hour continuing education package for license renewal. Contact your local association for more details.

ALLIANCE

Prudential California Realty (PCR) announced its affiliation with The Realty Alliance, a real estate networking and think tank group. This will enable PCR to benchmark their technology, programs and services. The Realty Alliance offers its members a curriculum of ongoing informative meetings and seminars. To learn more visit the Web site at www.pruweb.com.

RETIRES

There's good news for retiring Re/Max agents. In response to a

growing number of requests, RE/Max International has created the RE/Max Alumni Program. As an alumnus, former associates can attend conventions and retain some of the other benefits. Check it out at www.remax.net.

WHO?

Where did she go? Looking for Ingrid Westgard? Linda Centoni of North American Title told this columnist that Westgard is now with the

NATC Castro Valley office to say "hey" at 510-887-1111.

WHAT?

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2050 Manzanita, Oakland. Dramatic contemporary, 4BR/3BA, decks, views and vistas. Fabulous! Glass/Sabine (510) 428-0900



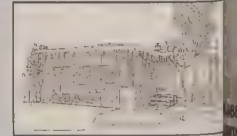
OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 **\$729,000**
2660 Camino Lenada, Oakland. Charming 3BR/2BA Cape Cod w/ Craftsman details. Hope Broderick (510) 339-9290



OPEN Sunday 2-5 **\$589,000**
5953 Thornhill, Oakland. Just listed! 4+BR, lovely 40's home + studio! Adrienne Nash (510) 845-0211



OPEN Sunday 2-4 **\$549,000**
1543 Prince, Berkeley. 5BR/3.5BA, new construction, off-street parking, private yards. Laura Margulius (510) 868-1400



OPEN Sat 2-4 & Sun 1-5 **\$320,000**
765 Wilson, Richmond. 3BR/2BA, updated hwd floors, fireplace, new floor + paint. Kathleen Wilson (510) 527-9000

Oakland/Piedmont

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 **\$1,175,000**
6357 Brookside, Mark Becker Mediterranean. 3BR/2+BA w/ detached suite. Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 **\$995,000**
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OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 **\$629,000**
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OPEN Sunday 1-4 **\$620,000**
7772 Surrey Lane. Reduced 30K. 4BR/2.5BA, 2 fireplaces & pool. Hurry! Sandi Porter (510) 834-2010

OPEN Sat & Sun 2-5 **\$599,000**
1100 Glendora. 3+BR/2BA, new kit, spiral to mstr retreat. Glenview. John F. Bell (510) 834-2010

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 **\$479,500**
2450 Carmel. 2BR charmer! Large bonus rm, level yard, patio too! Mac McCulloch (510) 834-2010

Emeryville

OPEN Sunday 2-5 **\$369,000**
5855 Horton #810. 1BR/1BA top floor, new w/ views. Anthony Riggins (510) 428-0900

Alameda

OPEN Sunday 2-4 **\$525,000**
1616B Fernside. Price reduced. 3BR/2.5BA, no yard. Boat dock and slip. Steve Ryman (510) 845-0211

Berkeley/Albany

OPEN Sunday 1-5 **\$649,000**
2925 Benvenue, Berkeley. Unique 3BR/2BA detached, like a single family residence. Natalie Cuttler (510) 845-0211

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1545 Prince, Berkeley. 5BR/3.5BA, new const., off-street parking, private yards. Laura Margulius (510) 868-1400

OPEN Sunday 2-4 **\$549,000**
2728 Wallace St. 4BR/2BA spacious, clean home. Quiet area. Close to shop, trans, UC. Good condition, parking. Cynthia (510) 868-1549, 868-1400

Coming Soon In Albany **\$489,500**
Sweet 2+BR/2BA on 5000 sq. ft. lot. Workshop and garage on Carmel Ave. Kathleen Crandall (510) 868-1480

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San Leandro **\$415,000**
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2775 Willowen Way. Large 4BR/3BA traditional w/ great floor plan. Herb Manor (510) 339-9290

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Kensington Beauty **\$1,900,000**
360° views on 3/4 acre. Stunning contemporary home, priv. gate. Lillie Brady (510) 868-1400, 644-5262

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Where should I buy my Bay Area home?

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...everything else,
...we choose to live in
...ive

...we've all heard before, there
...only two things that really mat-
...time and money, and both are
...Most of us remember when
...000 was a lot of money for a
...And around the same time
...tion of gas was \$.79 and a
...was \$2. The minimum wage
...about \$4.50/hr. and a really
...annual salary was \$25,000.
...mortgage rates hovered around
...percent. And remember the short
...when it was even 18 percent?
...day the same house is over
...000, gas is close to \$2 a gal-
...and a movie is \$8.

...the good news — interest rates
...remain at about 6 percent
...what it was back in the good
...days. And when we talk to new
...s, that fact is what really
...s to count.

In today's real estate market, it's
not how much it costs them to buy
a house but how much they have
to pay a month to own it. As long
as they can afford the payments,
and not have to eat beans unless
it is in a burrito in a local taqueria,
they want to pursue the American
Dream of home ownership.

One question people have been
asking us recently is why people
will pay and arm and a leg to live
in Berkeley or it's fingers — Ken-
sington, North Oakland, or Albany?
Is it what the community offers? Is
it the location? The answer is both.

Like most Americans, our buy-
ers lead extremely busy lives. If part-
nered, both generally have full time
jobs and other major time commit-
ments — children, school, family
and social obligations, the list is
endless. Time, therefore, is their ma-
jor consideration.

They are not interested in spend-
ing any more precious moments
than are absolutely necessary com-
muting to anything. Proximity to
their jobs, children's schools, shop-
ping and transportation is para-

Like most Americans, our buyers are not
interested in spending any more precious
moments than are absolutely necessary
commuting to anything. Proximity to their jobs,
children's schools, shopping and transportation
is paramount

mount and, of course, they want to
be able enjoy all of the community
resources that they paid dearly to
live near-by.

In fact, a house without a view
in the hills now often sells for less
than a comparable one in the flats
that is walking distance to coffee or
transportation.

But getting back to why it costs
so much more to buy in Berkeley.
First of all hardly anyone ever
moves which means that there is
very little available to buy. As always
supply and demand rule the day.
We think that's because there's not
much that can't be found in Berke-
ley. People like living here.

Cultural diversity from thinking
to eating is celebrated. Many of
the greatest minds in the country live
and work here which makes sitting
in a café over a cup of coffee much
more interesting especially if you
are into occasional eavesdropping.

There are artist communities,
shops and synagogues, world-class
restaurants and a symphony. All
kinds of theater featuring everything
from the most avant garde pro-
ductions to the classics.

And within minutes even com-
mitted city folk like us can be found
faux trekking on trails in the hills for-
getting our responsibilities or solv-
ing the challenges of our everyday
lives while communing with nature.
Even the politics (like 'em or not)
are unique. It's the energy of the
community that everyone wants to
be a part of.

Even though there's a much big-

ger bang for the buck 15 minutes
up the road in the more suburban
communities of Richmond, Pinole,
or El Sobrante where the same
\$500,000 will buy you twice the
square footage and double the lot,
(and a lot more of our clients did
take advantage of that fact last
year), most prefer the cosmopol-
itan life-style that Berkeley offers, if
they can manage it.

Growing in popularity of late, is
neighboring El Cerrito which is by
the clock just a minute or so north
of Berkeley. If we imagine a 1500
square foot bungalow in Berkeley
somewhere around \$700,000 and
Pinole at about \$450,000, El Cer-
rito splits the difference.

Depending upon where you start
from, barely a mile north of Berke-
ley, it's becoming more cos-
mopolitan and its appeal, for the
money, increasing.

Close to BART and with a re-
cently renovated Plaza bringing in
more up-scale shops and restau-
rants, El Cerrito is a considerable
alternative, especially for us Trader
Joe junkies.

No matter which side of the coin
you are on, buying or selling, 2004
promises to be an active year in the
real estate market because indeed
we have a variety of interesting
communities to live in for which
there is a strong demand and very
little inventory.

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reached on the World Wide Web at
www.justsellmyhouse.com or at 510
527-3387.

Experience Oakland's Chapel of the Chimes

...lia Morgan creation
...next Saturday for
...docent-led tour

...Oakland's historic Chapel of the
...es at 4499 Piedmont Ave. in-
...you to a tour through through
...y 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 14.
...ascinating building began in
...With the establishment of the
...nia Memorial Crematorium
...Columbarium, the first such fa-
...in the East Bay

...y 1928, it had grown into a
...ful chapel and columbarium
...ined by prominent Bay Area
...ect Julia Morgan. Convinced
...the columbarium should be a
...en of peace and tranquility,
...ian introduced an intriguing
...narrative array of gardens,
...ers, alcoves, stairwells, foun-
...ns and chapels rising into

vaulted ceilings and illuminated
by dazzling natural light.

Morgan's vision has been
maintained as the facility has ex-
panded to one and a half city
blocks, to include a new funeral
home, which opened in January
1999 — the same year, the City of
Oakland designated this historic
site as a city landmark.

The Chapel of the Chimes is a
community treasure preserved
from the past and entrusted to
present and future generations.
Beautiful gardens, alcoves, clois-
ters, stairwells, fountains and
chapels rising into vaulted ceil-
ings and illuminated by natural
light await you.

Space is limited for this free,
docent-guided tour. Call 510-654-
0123 for more information and to
reserve your space.

2 New Listings



OPEN
SUN.
2-4

3930 SELMI GROVE, RICHMOND

...Two story home with soaring ceilings, Spacious floor plan & big lot.
...ing room & fireplace. Conveniently located near Country Club. \$529,000



GREAT ALBANY LOCATION

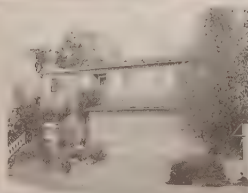
...14-16 Albany, Richmond. 2 master suites and two parking spaces. New stove, paint &
...rest. Security gated community w/swimming pool & sauna. Walk to Pacific
...Wall, close to freeway and BART station. Move in condition! \$369,900

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Pinole (510) 758-8050

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real estate**



KENSINGTON. 23 Kingston Ave. \$599,000

Unique and serene one-level hillside home
w/ filtered views of bay; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths,
formal dining room w/ pass-thru. Hardwood
floors, additional dining area designed
by Grazyna Ostas, garden and arbor
architecturally designed by Michael Barclay.

Open Sunday 2-4
February 8th & 15th

292-3048
292-3041

BERKELEY. 1806 Cedar St. \$499,000

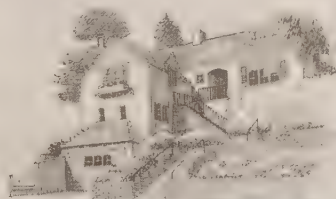
Charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath home built in 1907 in lovely
Victorian style. Fireplace in circular living room,
elegant dining room, huge kitchen, hardwood floors,
greenhouse, hot tub, and wonderful, private backyard.
Open Sunday 2-4
Phyllis Hewitt 292-3054

289 Arlington Ave. Kensington (510) 524-0800

7502 Fairmount Ave. El Cerrito (510) 527-9111

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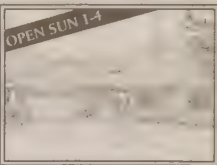
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The Berkeley Office
1806 Cedar St.
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 524-0800

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approximate 1/2 acre lot, the
home was completely rebuilt in
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3 baths, and 2772 square feet.
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accented by hardwood floors,
gracious entertaining areas, and a
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baths, breakfast room, sun room and studio.

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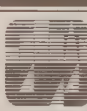
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\$425,000 1806 Dwight Way. 2-story
condo with 2bd, 2ba, master suite,
fireplace, hardwood floors, kitchen
Nice ya **PENDING** washer & dryer
Close to UC & shopping Donnaluci
510-814-4826.

\$379,000 15391 Elvina Dr. Washington
Manor! 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, fresh
home. Radiant floors, fresh
interior paint, and full bath. Needs
some TLC but is priced to sell! Steve
510-814-4818

El Sobrante

\$578,000 34 La Paloma Court.
Mediterranean built in 2002, 3bd, 2.5
ba and 2 car garage, inside laundry,
open loft, cu-de-sac location
Donnaluci 510-814-4826.

\$395,000 14177 Seagate Dr. Great
location adjacent to Monarch Bay Golf
Course and **PENDING** 3bd, 2.5ba
condo with inside laundry.
Gated community with pool, tennis
courts and spa. Tere 510-814-4840.

Oakland

For Lease 1504 Franklin St., #101
Approximately 1815 sq. ft. of office
space available. This is a sublease
that runs to April 30, 2005. Landlord
will negotiate longer term if needed.
Rich Krinks 510-814-4802.

\$425,000 14638 Outrigger Dr. Largest
model at Marina Seagate adjacent to
Monarch Bay Golf Course near S.L.
Marina **PENDING** with attached 2-
car garage, gated community, w/ pool,
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\$210,000 877 42nd St. One of the
original live/work properties. Living
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location with many possible uses. Jeff
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\$650,000 280 Davis St., - Bar - Corner
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3024 sq. ft., off street parking. Call for
details! Donn 510-814-4854.

\$285,000 884 42nd St. cute 1bd, 1ba
single level bungalow with yard and
garage. Formal dining room could be
used as a second bedroom. Steve
510-814-4888 or Jeff 510-814-4885.

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Residential Income! Eight one bedroom, 1
bath units all on the ground floor plus one
3 bedroom home all on one lot, over 3/4
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\$462,500 1024 Wood St. Beautiful
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Oakland **PENDING** Conne 510-814-4814

\$469,000 533 Drew St. Mint 1-level 3bd,
2ba home with hardwood floors in living
room, granite slab kitchen
countertops, pane windows. Eunice
PENDING 510-814-4892

New anti-spam law could benefit Realtors

■ One real estate marketing guru thinks the new federal anti-spam bill will benefit agents, despite the challenges of compliance

BY JESSICA SWESEY
INMAN.COM

Now that one federal anti-spam bill is quickly turning the notion of a national no-e-mail registry into a reality, real estate agents who use e-mail to reach prospective clients will have to rethink their e-mail marketing methods or face steep fines and compliance costs.

A no-e-mail registry to be created by the Federal Trade Commission could be an expensive burden for Realtors who would have to screen all their commercial e-mail against the list of restricted addresses. And many Realtors are still struggling to comply with the agency's Do-Not-

Call list, which includes some 53 million telephone numbers that businesses are prohibited from calling.

However, one real estate marketing guru thinks the new federal anti-spam bill will benefit agents' marketing campaigns, despite the challenges of compliance.

Greg Herder, a Realtor and co-founder of Newport Beach, Calif.-based Hobbs Herder Advertising, believes the legislation will force agents to think about how to get permission to send e-mail messages to consumers. Agents will also have to think about how to send high-quality e-mail that will be valuable to recipients.

"This is a huge opportunity because people who meet that challenge both graphically and with content will have a leg up on their competition," he said.

President Bush signed the federal anti-spam bill, known as the "Can-Spam Act." The bill creates a single set of rules for commercial e-mail and force businesses to include a valid return address

and opt-out provision in all e-mail messages sent. It also prohibits the use of misleading subject lines and curbs the practice of harvesting e-mail addresses off the Web.

The bill itself isn't all that daunting. It's the provision that instructs the FTC to formulate a plan to establish a national Do-Not-E-mail registry that could pose some serious problems for Realtors. Herder recommends that agents obtain written approval now to call and e-mail prospective clients in the future so there's no question about permission once the spam bill goes into effect. Agents should focus more on the quality of their e-mail messages and more accurately targeting their recipients.

"(Agents) can't ever afford to send a bad e-mail," he said.

One poorly executed e-mail message can prevent every future message from going through to a recipient, Herder said. If the consumer opens the first e-mail and doesn't find value in the content,

he or she will likely activate a spam filter to block messages from that agent from coming through next time.

Herder believes the proliferation of spam doesn't hurt agents with initial costs, but it can damage an agent's image in the long run and cost them clients.

The real cost of spam is passed on to the people who receive it. Spam costs time and money to filter and puts a business' technology at risk from the many viruses transmitted through electronic mail.

The National Association of Realtors' stance on spam legislation is cautious and carefully worded. The trade group wants to stop junk e-mails that clog its members' inboxes and handheld devices, but it doesn't want to obstruct Realtors' ability to market their services and products through unsolicited e-mail messages.

The Realtor association supports the "Can-Spam Act" the House passed last week, but isn't entirely convinced it is the right tool to curb spam, according to NAR spokesperson Lucien Salvant. "We do have some concerns with (the bill), just like we had concerns with the Do-Not-Call registry," he said.

One main concern is over the complexity and financial burden of member compliance with a national do-not-e-mail registry. Salvant said the association anticipates writing a letter to the FTC to address some of these issues.

NAR adopted a policy in November that supports efforts to control fraudulent, misleading and abusive unsolicited e-mails as long as those efforts are balanced with the needs of small business to conduct legitimate business via e-mail without the imposition of significant compliance burdens.

Go to www.inman.com for more real estate news

Resort to (common) law to trim intrusive tree

Q. You had a recent article in your column about tree roots endangering a garage next door. What recourse do I have when a neighbor's large tree is growing over my garage and repeated requests to have it trimmed or cut down have not met with success?

—C.A. Smaida

A. As with any relationship between neighbors, the best solution is to resolve it between you and your neighbor. If you can't get a reasonable solution from your neighbor, then it would be best to consult your local city or county ordinances to see what remedies may be available to you. If there are no ordinances specifically guiding property-owners actions, then common law would say that you may trim that part of the tree which is encroaching on your property.

Q. We own 75 acres of land in Wood County, Wis. The land is surrounded by county land and we have no legal access to it. We have

requested this from the county and they refused. What are our options to secure legal easement?

—Helen Jepson

A. Somewhere in the land's history, access was possible. Then, the land was divided into many parcels, of which one is yours. Because you do not have ready access to your property, you may be able to claim an easement by necessity to access your parcel. This type of easement is quite common when parcels are "landlocked" and they are relatively easy to obtain.

You may need to hire an attorney to get the paperwork processed since going to the county directly did not apparently work for you.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associate professor at the Shenheon Center for Real Estate Education at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. E-mail questions to: thamilton@stthomas.edu. Please include name, city and state.



TOM HAMILTON
Real Estate Q&A

If there are no ordinances specifically guiding property owners actions, then common law would say that you may trim that part of the tree that is encroaching on your property.

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PENDING

299 EUCLID, OAKLAND

Majestic 4-bedroom home near Lake Merritt. Huge LR w/frpl and large attached sunroom. Dining rm, breakfast rm, hwd flrs, 1/2 bath, staircase, window seat, glass frescoes. Built-in stone fireplace and barbecue in backyard. 1-car garage. Large photo gallery at www.panavista.com/299Euclid.

PENDING

Almost 6000 sq. ft. commercial building located on a corner lot is now for sale in Alameda's Community Commercial (C-C) Zoning District. Tenants pay all utilities. Building is on Alameda's historical Building List. Sellers will carry the First Loan for a qualified Buyer.

~ New Listing in Rockridge ~

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2-5PM

5946 Ocean View Drive, Oakland

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Offered at \$699,000

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Vicki Woodhead
SENIOR SALES ASSOCIATE
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ates remain competitive

BY JOHN HANDLEY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The real estate market has been washed across the country in the last three years may ebb and flow, but prospective buyers will find the market still very competitive. The market is a weaker housing industry, according to Douglas Duncan, chief economist of the Mortgage Bankers Association trade group based in Washington, D.C.

These thinking of buying a home this year will find mortgage rates slightly, from about 6 percent now for a 30-year, fixed-rate loan, to 6.5 percent, Duncan says. A mostly sunny outlook for 2005. The upward trend will continue, hitting 7 percent by the third quarter of 2005. Meanwhile, residential prices are a modest increase to 5 percent a year, Duncan says.

Bottom interest rates have fueled frenzied activity in the mortgage and housing industries, power to records and positions of economic strength in the recession. Consumers have been cashing in the good times, buying homes, refinancing mortgages and getting out some of their equity. The mortgage industry, which sees stormy weather ahead, says the refinancing boom of the past three years seems to be a plunge, which will trigger a significant contraction in the industry.

That's because refinancings, which account for 66 percent of mortgage pie in 2003, "will drop to 28 percent in 2004, cutting the volume of mortgage originations in half — from \$3.3 trillion to \$1.8 trillion," Duncan said. Though refis will plunge, mortgage originations for the purchase of homes will hold up to 2003 levels. And, the contraction could benefit from the increased competition for mortgage

"Mortgage companies will have to be more creative and competitive next year," said Robert Couch, newly elected chairman of the MBA.

Consumers also might reap some benefits from increased competition among appraisers and title companies. In the home-appraisal phase of getting a mortgage, there will be more availability and more choice of appraisers, according to Alan Hummel, president of the Appraisal Institute, which has 18,000 members nationwide and headquarters in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

"We have been working with our members for several years to diversify and offer other services. For example, they could develop a specialty of appraising the value of rehabbing. Will a proposed rehab result in a sufficient payback when the house is sold?"

Another possible avenue for diversification for appraisers could involve helping homeowners determine whether their property tax assessment is correct. "If it is overestimated, they may be able to get it lowered," Hummel said.

Despite reduced business in the mortgage market, "home sales in 2004 should be robust by historical standards," Duncan said. "Imagine a medal stand at the Olympics," Duncan said. "In the housing and mortgage fields, the bronze medal was awarded for the pace of 2001, the silver for 2002 and the gold for 2003. This year, we will drop down a step to the level of 2002."

He forecast "a modest dampening of first-time buyers. Recently, because of falling rates, move-up buyers were getting more house at the same mortgage rate. But that will not apply in 2004," he said. In the years ahead, Duncan believes a new wave of immigrants will bolster the market, picking up the slack from the baby boomers, who have powered the market for years.

See RATES, Page B8

Realtor

FROM PAGE B3

has created a curriculum — including a recommendation that real estate agents be bilingual — to help all agents get a foot in the door in the Latino market.

The Realtors survey showed that only 15 percent of its members were fluent in a language other than English, and that 8 percent were born in a country other than the United States.

Although many white real estate agents believe that minority buyers prefer working with Realtors from their own race or ethnicity, that isn't always the case.

"Many multicultural clients prefer to keep their finances secret," said Michael Lee, a Castro Valley, Calif., Realtor and author of a book on multiculturalism. "If they work with someone in their group, they fear that the person will spread that information to others in the group."

Although the percentage of women Realtors has not changed since the 55 percent recorded in the 2001 survey, the roles of men and women within the industry have continued to change.

In the late 1970s, men accounted for nearly 80 percent of all brokers. As of 2003, 52 percent of brokers were women. "I've watched it evolve," said Barbore, the Weichert broker, who began selling real estate in Delaware County in 1969. "It seems more balanced between men and women these days, and that's nice to see."

Barbore said that it seemed for a period that fewer men were getting into the business, but that appears to have changed recently — probably because of corporate downsizing.

For the first time since 1984, the median age of real estate agents declined in 2003, to 49 years from 50 years in 2001. However, more than one-third of all agents are 55 years or older, compared with 21 percent in 1978.

The median age of brokers also has declined since 2001 to 52 from 54 — which reflects the growth in

If less than 1 percent of all sales agents gross \$500,000 or more a year, where are all those million-dollar agents?

the number of brokers below age 40, considered by the Realtors' group to be a trend.

The strong housing market pushed Realtor gross income 9 percent higher between 2001 and 2003, the survey showed. Nearly 25 percent of Realtors had a gross income of \$100,000 in 2002, the previous full year before the survey was conducted, while only 10 percent could say that in 1996.

And, as one might expect, the longer a person has been selling real estate, the more money he or she is bringing in. Even though incomes for male and female Realtors have increased since 2000, males grossed \$59,700 in 2002, while women earned \$47,100. The survey attributed the gap to the fact that more men than women were selling real estate full-time.

Brokers earned \$65,300 in 2002, down from \$73,400 in 2000. Several factors contributed to that decline, including the influx of newer, less experienced brokers; a drop in the number of hours a broker works; and an increase in the number reporting that they function primarily as sales agents.

If less than 1 percent of all sales agents gross \$500,000 or more a year, where are all those "million-dollar agents?"

A common perception "is that we make millions of dollars a year because we get to keep a 6 percent commission on every house," Lee said.

"As any agent knows, after the broker takes out the expenses of doing business, the agent gets only 2 percent, from which he has to pay his own expenses and taxes."

By the way, only 1 percent of all brokers grossed \$500,000 or more in 2002.

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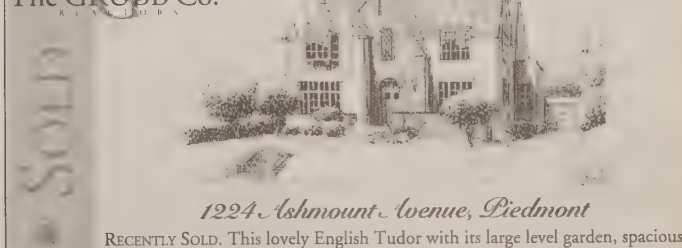
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WELLS & BENNETT
REALTORS

Rates

FROM PAGE B7

"The health of the real estate finance market is directly dependent on jobs creation, and we anticipate significant jobs growth through 2004 and 2005," he added.

Since Duncan made the forecasts, the economy has shown signs of strong growth, with some of that beginning to show up in new jobs. "That's good news," he said recently. "It confirms our forecast. Job growth has picked up earlier than we thought, and unemployment will gradually move down."

There are potential problems on the horizon, however, and though they may seem remote and difficult to understand, they could directly affect consumers.

One is the financial safety of the mortgage industry. In June, the rock-solid reputation of Freddie Mac, the mortgage giant, took a hit when the company fired three of its top executives amid charges of accounting irregularities.

Treasury Secretary John Snow called for more oversight of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, the nation's other mortgage powerhouse.

The Bush administration favors turning over regulation of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae to the U.S. Treasury to assure markets that the mortgage finance companies do not pose a risk to the financial system. The two companies own or guarantee more than 40 percent of all mortgages in the United States.

Critics of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae contend that they use their quasi-governmental status to unfairly control the mortgage market and that they lack scandal that disrupts mortgage financing could have the effect of raising rates and depressing the housing sector. The consensus among mortgage bankers is that oversight is coming, but the timing is uncertain.

"We need a strong regulator. We are very supportive of that," said Paul Peterson, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Freddie Mac.

Peterson stressed, though, that his company's troubles never posed a risk to the economy or the country. "We told our investors that our problem was an accounting issue, not a fundamental change in our business. Auditors are doing a final review now. Restatement of our earnings will be released in late November. It is expected to show we had earnings of \$4.5 billion more than in the previous statement," Peterson said at the MBA gathering.

Franklin Raines, chairman and chief executive officer of Fannie Mae, said the government's concerns started when Freddie Mac's problems came to light. "Companies of our size need regulation, but when I testified before the Senate Banking Committee, I sensed that the members did not view this as a crisis."

Raines noted that there is broad-based bipartisan support for a strong regulator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in Treasury. "That could get done in a hurry, but it could be slowed down by some people who think the country is

The health of the real estate finance market is directly dependent on jobs creation, and we anticipate significant job growth through 2004 and 2005.

Douglas Duncan
Chief Economist
Mortgage Bankers Association

spending too much money on housing. They are not interested in the safety of the mortgage industry, but in restraint."

Another potential problem is the increasing number of mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures, attributed to a slow economy and an expansion of home lending to people with low incomes. The delinquency rate for FHA loans rose from 8 percent in 2000 to 12.6 percent this year, according to an MBA survey. By contrast, the delinquency rate for conventional loans is up only slightly to 3.1 percent.

A so-called subprime mortgage industry has developed to lend to people with a higher risk of default. While widening the spectrum of borrowers eligible for mortgages, the risk of default also widens.

"Because of the tremendous growth in nonprime lending, we can expect a big boost in delinquencies and foreclosures," Duncan said.

He noted that unemployment is the No. 1 factor in delinquencies.

Today's high level of consumer debt has worried some economists, but not Duncan. "Consumer debt never has caused a recession," he said.

Others fear that rising residential prices will inflate a price bubble that could burst. "I'm not in the bubble camp," he said. "There is a modest supply of homes, so higher prices are supported by supply and demand."

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1008 Auburn Dr - \$530,000
1227 Ballena Bl - \$640,000
135 Bannister Wy - \$583,000
1429 Bay St - \$947,500
1417 Central Av - \$720,000
308 Coral Reef Rd - \$538,500
1125 Court St - \$500,000
1209 Eagle Av - \$465,000
33 Justin Cr - \$670,000
2029 Otis Dr - \$343,000
920 Otis Dr - \$705,000
2617 San Jose Av - \$501,000
1503 Santa Clara Av - \$534,000
1331 Sherman St - \$405,000
3042 Thompson Av - \$635,000
1027 Verdemar Dr - \$369,000
917 Walnut St - \$494,000
3106 Washington St - \$589,000
2029 Yorkshire Pl - \$775,000

ALBANY

805 Curtis St - \$435,000
1068 Neilson St - \$700,000
555 Pierce 632 - \$238,000
555 Pierce St 724C - \$262,000
1175 Santa Fe Av - \$593,000

BERKELEY

2010 10th St - \$439,000
2311 9th St - \$630,000
1251 Ashby Av - \$327,500
419 Boynton Av - \$705,000
2201 California St - \$410,000
1722 Capistrano Av - \$849,000
1039 Channing Wy - \$420,000
2312 Curtis St - \$377,000
1225 Delaware St - \$555,000
1346 Haskell St - \$374,000
2130 Haste St - \$610,000
1620 MLK, Jr. Wy - \$512,000
2053 Oregon St - \$479,000
1320 Poe St 3 - \$560,000
745 Woodhaven - \$725,000

EL CERRITO

524 Colusa Av - \$350,000
6921 Fairview Dr - \$570,000
5636 Jordan Av - \$485,000
6850 Kenilworth Av - \$237,500
5334 Rosalind Av - \$415,000

EL SOBRANTE

4199 Garden Ln - \$411,000
5799 Oak Knoll Rd - \$660,000
4174 SP Dam Rd - \$207,000
1043 St. Andrews - \$387,000

EMERYVILLE

1265 66th St - \$256,000
1269 66th St - \$396,500
1271 66th St - \$491,500
1277 66th St - \$256,000
5529 Beaudry - \$363,000
6363 Christie 626 - \$547,500
2 Commodore D277 - \$325,000
5855 Horton 514 - \$500,000

KENSINGTON

119 Kenyon Av - \$695,000

OAKLAND

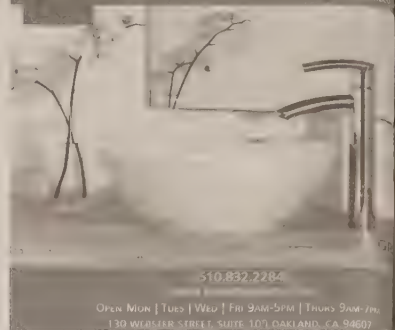
1030 101st Av - \$285,000
1606 101st Av - \$185,000
555 10th St 109 - \$309,000
555 10th St 407 - \$351,000
655 12th St 107 - \$330,000
655 12th St 109 - \$329,000
655 12th St 111 - \$326,000
655 12th St 113 - \$326,500
655 12th St 115 - \$329,500
655 12th St 117 - \$337,000
655 12th St 121 - \$343,500
655 12th St 123 - \$339,000
1433 15th Av - \$226,000
2607 23rd Av - \$500,000

See SALES, Page B9

House hunting this weekend? Don't miss the Open Home Guide on B15.

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	Diamond District - Oakland Handsome 3-unit building on large lot with plenty of off street parking. Two-bedroom unit on top floor and one-bedroom unit on lower floor will be vacant at close of escrow. Hardwood floors; two fireplaces. \$589,000
	Russian Hill Great pied-a-terre. Remodeled studio with walk-out balcony and panoramic Bay views. 1 car parking, 24-hour door person, on-site manager. Ideal location near Ghirardelli Sq., the Cannery, Fisherman's wharf, restaurants shops and transportation. \$249,900

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Sales

FROM PAGE B9

5565 Masonic Av - \$831,000
 4481 Mattis Ct - \$635,000
 2901 McKillop Rd - \$480,000
 4630 Melrose Av - \$245,000
 10979 Moonlight Ct - \$414,500
 10981 Moonlight Ct - \$430,500
 10 Moss Av 14 - \$282,000
 707 Nevada St - \$300,000
 3920 Nevil St - \$335,000
 311 Oak St 719 - \$309,000
 6865 Oakwood Dr - \$770,000
 233 Orange St 106 - \$270,000
 115 Pershing Dr - \$792,000
 7969 Phaeton Dr - \$761,000
 5199 Pinecrest Dr - \$600,000
 3144 Pleitner Av - \$312,500
 688 Rand Av - \$680,000
 3985 Rhoda Av - \$510,000
 3929 Ruby St - \$417,000
 4037 Rusting Av - \$454,000
 2951 School St - \$320,000
 8506 Seneca St - \$400,000
 2450 Siesta Ln - \$235,000
 2460 Siesta Ln - \$250,000
 45 Spy Glass 108 - \$600,000
 1909 Tiffin Rd - \$470,500
 1530 Tucker St 32 - \$339,000
 1451 Tucker St - \$354,500
 3110 Union St - \$235,000
 511 Van Buren Av - \$765,000
 3654 Victor Av - \$525,000
 7343 Weld St - \$295,000
 1 W. Emb'ero 165 - \$322,000
 7 W. Emb'ero 301 - \$216,000
 1121 Willow St - \$440,000
 4830 Ygnacio Av - \$338,000
 811 York St - \$231,000

PIEDMONT

628 Boulevard - \$628,000
 4 Croydon Cr - \$1,300,000
 355 Jerome Av - \$1,025,000
 981 Kingston Av - \$809,500
 48 Manor Dr - \$940,000
 1047 Ranleigh Wy - \$680,000
 300 Scenic Av - \$1,104,000

RICHMOND

612 19th St - \$240,000
 252 1st St - \$205,000
 427 31st St - \$400,000
 554 32nd St - \$355,000
 419 38th St - \$380,000
 879 38th St - \$345,000
 145 3rd St - \$300,000
 732 6th St - \$265,000
 2630 Beach Head - \$343,000
 1419 Bissell Av - \$255,000
 5350 Brookwood Ct - \$580,000
 1509 Burbeck Av - \$283,000
 2836 Clinton Av - \$390,000
 5619 Columbia Av - \$169,000
 5504 Conestoga Wy - \$495,000
 2200 Costa Av - \$299,000
 5384 Country View - \$585,000
 4135 Cutting Bl - \$440,000
 3136 Deseret Dr - \$410,000
 2003 Esmond Av - \$319,000
 5318 Glenwood Wy - \$626,000

1750 Hellings Av - \$270,000
 2418 Humphrey Av - \$350,000
 2509 Lowell Av - \$320,000
 3740 Morningside - \$510,000
 3610 Nevin Av - \$415,000
 1109 Pennsylvania - \$226,000
 1301 Quarry Ct 303 - \$464,000
 2828 Rheem Av - \$280,000

5709 Sacramento - \$375,000
 76 Sandpoint Dr - \$600,000
 1367 Santa Clara - \$337,000
 634 South 15th St - \$468,000
 524 South 19th St - \$296,000
 430 South 23rd St - \$250,000
 317 South 25th St - \$437,000
 325 South 25th St - \$437,000

425 South 26th St - \$495,000
 433 South 26th St - \$495,000
 240 South 44th St - \$233,000
 854 South 45th St - \$329,000
 446 South Marina Wy - \$294,000

See SALES, Page B11

Open Sunday ~ February 8th, 2:00PM ~ 4:30PM

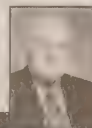


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 transactions, the best types of properties to acquire, how to
 use your 401k to acquire real estate, how to arrange
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TUESDAY

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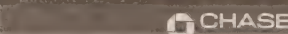
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ales

AGE B10

1596 Pierce Av - \$355,000
520 Superior Av - \$549,000
500 Warden Av - \$340,000
3847 Yorkshire 8 - \$270,000

LEANDRO

228 Alder Creek - \$523,000
225 Atlantis Ct - \$490,000
Bellevue Dr - \$625,000
202 Berkshire - \$460,000
Biltmore St - \$647,000
Broadmoor Bl - \$635,000
Burkhart Av - \$470,000
California Av - \$400,000
Callan Av - \$328,000
Castle St - \$415,000
Collier Dr - \$420,000
Devonshire - \$425,000
19 Devonshire - \$411,500
Dowling Bl - \$451,000
Durant Av - \$455,000
15 Eble St - \$345,000
Fairbanks St - \$415,000
Fairway Dr - \$325,000
Greer Av - \$460,000
77 Hesperian 6 - \$230,000
99 Inverness St - \$229,000
Juana Av - \$462,500
82 Kildare Rd - \$440,000
78 Lark St - \$400,000
10 Los Banos - \$365,000
15 Marcella St - \$585,000
Marsey Av - \$435,000
3 Mono Av - \$233,500
10 Neptune Dr - \$479,000
Pierce Av - \$355,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA
TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST PRICE: \$343,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$947,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$538,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$576,000

ALBANY
TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$238,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$452,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$445,600

BERKELEY
TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$327,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$849,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$512,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$531,500

EL CERRILLO

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$237,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$570,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$415,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$411,500

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$207,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$660,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$411,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$416,250

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$256,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$547,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$396,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$391,938

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$895,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 139
LOWEST PRICE: \$130,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,125,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$345,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$411,730

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$628,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,300,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$940,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$926,643

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 50
LOWEST PRICE: \$169,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$626,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$345,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$370,170

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 34
LOWEST PRICE: \$229,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$647,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$425,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$424,368

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$246,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$490,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$390,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$395,433

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

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Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm
1950 Leimert Blvd., Oakland
Oakmore Contemporary



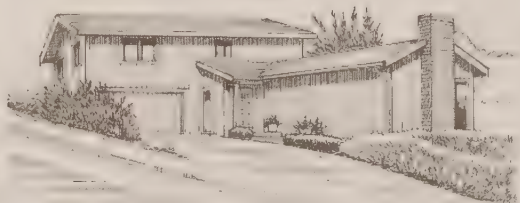
This charming bay view contemporary features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, double decks, updated kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, spacious family room. Private master suite.

Offered at \$669,000



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10 Reata Place, Rockridge
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December



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<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Open 1:30-4:30pm</p> <p>Westmont Heights New listing! 3+ BR / 2.5 BA, level in/level out patio. Hardwood floors, separate family rooms, master suite. Double garage with inside access. Sunny street with sidewalks. (510)339-8900 Tom Erwin</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>COMING SOON!</p> <p>Grand Lake A contemporary 2 BR / 2 BA penthouse with a Great Room. Granite counter kitchen, solarium and private deck. What a view of the East Bay Hills! Included is extra storage, in-unit laundry and 2 parking spaces. (510)339-8900 Tom Erwin</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Ivy Hill Classic traditional rich with woodwork and built-ins. 3+ BR / 1.5 BA. Art tile fireplace graces large living room. Formal dining and breakfast room. Kitchen created in 2002! Sunroom, sewing room and rec. room. Big level yard, 2-car garage plus 2 carport! (510)339-8900 Helen Nicholas</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Lake Merritt "White Glove" quality! This 1,600+ sq. ft. 2 BR / 2 BA co-op on the 10th floor has a sweeping 180° view of downtown Oakland and out to the SF Peninsula Hills. Very special decor, 24 hour doorman service and secure parking are but a few of the amenities. By appointment only. (510)339-8900 Tom Erwin</p>
<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Lake Merritt Close living with a country view from this 14th floor 2 BR / 2 BA condo in Oakland's famous Art Deco high-rise on Lake Merritt. Includes upgraded kitchen and baths, den / home office and a solarium. 24 hour doorman / valet service. Shown by appointment. (510)339-8900 Tom Erwin</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4:30pm</p> <p>Lower Oakmore New listing! Light & bright well-kept home in a great neighborhood. 2+ BR / 2 BA. Hardwood floors, living room with fireplace, updated bathrooms. Peek of Bay views. Garage, in-law unit with separate entrance. Lovely garden/patio areas with fruit trees. (510)339-8900 Deborah Riney</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Oakland Duplex. Cute 20's Spanish Deco charmer. Two 1 BR / 1 BA units. Everything redone in '93 with permits - updated baths and kitchens. Nice fenced backyard area with patio. (510)339-8900 Deborah Riney</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4:30pm</p> <p>Piedmont Pines The warmth of a Sierra lodge with the convenience of walking distance to schools & reg. park. Cedar shingled 3,200 sq ft home includes 4 BR / 2.5 BA. Study, formal dining, family room adjoining kitchen. Level access and level fenced yard. Huge basement too! (510)339-8900 Helen Nicholas</p>
<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>OPEN SUN. 2-4:30</p> <p>Adams Point Formal, late, spacious and stylish 2 BR / 2 BA condo in one of Adams Point's best complexes! Sunny, open living room, master suite. Open house this Sunday. (510)339-8900 Picky Friedman</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Lafayette Great Lafayette listing. 3 BR / 2 BA. Recently remodeled inside. Views, pool, and wooded lot. New paint interior/exterior. Minutes to BART, shopping and trails. (925)314-1500 Bill Skarada</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4:30pm</p> <p>Distinguished Home of the Week - MONTCLAIR New construction under 1 million! 4 bedroom / 3 bath. Features cook's kitchen, cherry wood cabinets, granite counters, large living room with fireplace. Family room kitchen combo. Level terraced yard area in rear. Drop by this Sunday afternoon - it is worth seeing! (510)339-8900 Mel Copland</p>	<p>OAKLAND</p> <p>Lake Merritt URBAN HI-RISE HAVEN! Huge 2 BR / 2 BA (1,600 + sq. ft.) Extraordinary closets. Very light, bright w/ house-like space. New paint & carpet. 24 hr security/doorman. Roof garden with "pano view". Quality, luxury, & value. (510)339-8900 D.C. Hodges</p>
<p>DANVILLE 925.314.1500 Relocation Services 1.800.708.7356</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE 925.935.9100</p>	<p>LIVERMORE 925.455.0505 Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300</p>	<p>MONTCLAIR 510.339.8900</p>

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Relocation Services 1.800.708.7356 Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B15.

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

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View Photo Tours on the Web

3921 Glen Park Rd., Oakland

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New Listing! This craftsman bungalow in the desirable Glenview area is near the Express bus to S.F., freeway access, and Glenview & Lakeshore shopping. Very spacious 2 bdrms, plus bonus room, updated bath, living room w/ fireplace and dining room w/ built-in buffet. Pleasant garden w/ fruit trees & sunny patio. Garage/workshop & basement storage.

Terese Ashman 524-9888 x11 \$469,000



1341 Washington Ave., Albany

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New Listing! Classic two-bedroom split-level home near Solano shops. Wonderful details including original wooden windows, hardwood floors, dining room built-ins and stone fireplace. Large kitchen with breakfast nook.

Bill & Tracy 524-9888 x33 \$475,000



4293 Whittle Ave., Oakland

This cul-de-sac hideaway in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood offers a flexible floorplan and a yard that is a gardener's delight. The living room, dining room and kitchen have lovely hwd floors. The lower level features a full kitchen unit and single car garage, both with indoor access to rest of house. Located not far from shops and freeway access to Hwy 13 & 580. The lot is 9168 sq ft.

Joan Brunswick 524-9888 x12 \$515,000



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Oakland Listings

Crestmont Heights

661 Via Realto
1 bedrooms, 3 baths
Offered at \$925,000
Open Sunday 2-4:30



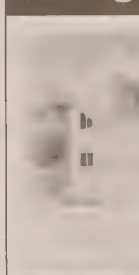
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Desirable Rockridge location. Four bedroom, 2.5 bath contemporary with remodeled kitchen. Dining and family open to a private patio for easy indoor-outdoor living & entertaining. Bay & view from the master bedroom suite. G floor plan. Sunny exposure, private setting. Built in 1986.

Offered at \$815,000

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BY APPOINTMENT

Berkeley \$7,750,000
Spring Mansion. 9 BR 4.5 BA This home is listed on the California Historical Registry. The estate includes second house w. 3BR/3BA, 2 guest cottages & tennis court.

Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495

Oakland \$1,800,000
Spectacular View. 3 BR 3.5 BA Elegant home with unobstructed 3 bridge view. Marbled jacuzzi in master bath. Incredible quality finishes throughout!

Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495

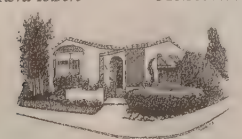


Montclair \$749,000
3 BR 1.5 BA Great Salt Box Cape Cod; daub & wattle walls in DR, latched drs, beam ceilings, built-ins, usable yrd & patios, eat-in kit & bay window.

Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700

Maxwell Park \$425,000
3 BR 1 BA Cutie home w/spacious layout, formal dining rm., extra living rm., & breakfast nook in kitchen. HWF, FP, nice front & back yard area.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700



Millmont \$389,950
2 BR 1 BA Cute cozy corner filled w/cheer. Formal dining & breakfast nook, fireplace, nice hardwood floor, attached garage & carport.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Oakland \$299,000
Triplex near downtown Oakland. Live in 2 bedroom unit and rent out the other 2 units.

Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

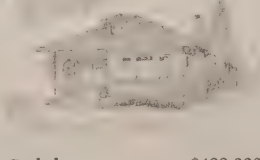
Richmond \$285,000
Nice & neat Duplex. Two 2 bedroom, 1 bath units with spacious carport, fenced backyard, easy access to public transportation and Hwy.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700



Berkeley \$1,495,000
2245 Glen Ave. Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 3 BA Redone from the foundation up. Craftsman ambiance, huge rear yard, min to Gourmet Ghetto.

Becky Andersen 510.339.4700



Berkeley \$499,000
1820 Derby St. Sun 2 - 4
2 BR 1 BA Craftsman brown shingle with original woodwork. Spacious loft, attic, and basement.

Maura Allen 510.486.1495

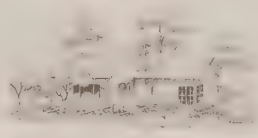
Berkeley \$485,000
1125 Channing Way Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 1+BA Handsome spl-lvl craftsman. Hwd flrs, frpl with big kitchen & yard. Move-in condition.

Maxine Malberg 510.486.1495

OPEN HOMES

Lake Merritt \$389,000
322 Hanover Ave. #508 Sun 1 - 4:30
2 BR 2 BA Just blocks to The Lake, this top floor condo has style: 2 master suites, FP, & a view!

Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



Montclair \$399,000
2 Cortez Ct. Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Cute & affordable 1960s ranch. Freshly painted interior. Room to expand.

Carolyn Devol 510.339.4700

Berkeley \$399,000
1404 Henry St. Sun 2 - 4
2 BR 1 BA Lovely Victor. 2+BR/1BA upper condo, light, hwd flrs. & upgraded kitchen. N. Berkeley.

Carol Gamble 510.486.1495



Richmond View \$399,000
5845 Bernhard Ave. Sun 1 - 4
Sunny 3BR/1.5BA mid-cent hm has tranquil vus, lrg eat-in kit, HWF, FRPL, huge landscpd lot.

Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495

Laurel \$408,000
4121 Laurel Ave. Sun 1 - 4:30
2+ BR 1 BA Bay views, country kitchen w/eating area, WF, FP, home office, converted garage. Too cute!

Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



OPEN HOMES

East Lake/New Chinatown \$498,000
1843 5th Ave. Sun 1 - 5
4 BR 2 BA Remod. bright duplex. HWF, lndr, yard, 1-car gar. Great owner occupancy/2 owners.

Elena Stone 510.339.4700

Montclair \$599,000
6916 Snake Rd. Sun 1 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Wonderful contemporary Oakland view home. Conveniently located near Montclair and parks.

Dan Joy 510.339.4700



Oakland \$699,000
20 Kingwood Rd. Sun 2 - 4:30
3+ BR, 2.5 BA. Level in design, Bay views, Formal LR & DR, updated kitchen.

Jeffrey Neidelman 510.339.4700

Orinda \$879,950
202 The Knoll Sun 1 - 4
2+BR 2.5BA Stunning Contemporary in Orindawoods. Dramatic kitchen/fam rm, updated baths.

George Karsant 510.339.4700



Rockridge (Upper) \$995,000
6000 Buena Vista Ave. Sun 2 - 5
Unique 1993 custom built 3+ BR, 2+ BA. Mediterranean flair. Hi ceiling LR, FDR, S. Bay Vu.

Ruby Ng 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

Claremont Hills \$2,399,000
20 Stephens Way Sun 1 - 5
4+BR 3.5BA Gorgeous! New construction, contemporary design. Fabulous Bay views, lot.

J Duffield/E Lancaster 510.339.4700

Oakland Hills \$499,000
3 lots for sale adjacent to the Seller will sell together or separately. 1.7 million for all.

David Echert 510.339.4700

Berkeley \$1,199,000
University Heights. Over 5000 sq ft. Bay view lot! Great frontage build your dream home. Private secluded setting.

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Hayward \$1,199,000
Residential lot w/Bay views, mostly level.

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Contact the real estate editor at 510-748-1655 or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com.

LAUREL DIST. OAKLAND



4121 Laurel Ave.
 Located at the top of Laurel, this darling cottage boasts views of the Bay. This charming bungalow features two bedrooms and one bath, living room with fireplace, wood floors, large country kitchen, and a small room off the kitchen used as an office. There's also a laundry. The garage has been converted to a separate space to fit different needs. Truly a lovely place to call home!
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 Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
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COLDWELL BANKER

Piedmont Pines "Coronation House"
 is on the market for the first time in 50 years.

Three bridge view
 Three plus bedrooms
 Two and one half baths
 Living room and dining room have bay views
 Family room with fireplace
 Large lot includes three patios

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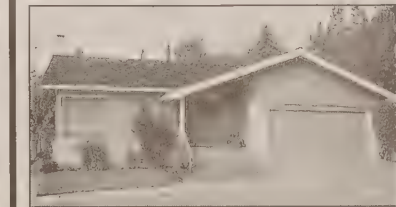
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1903 Asilomar Drive, Montclair
 OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Enjoy sweeping Bay views from the deck of this magnificently redesigned three plus bedroom, two bath home, beautifully situated in a park-like setting, with a sunny level garden.
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55 Camellia Place, Oakland



Fantastic Lincoln Heights Rancher
 Too many designer upgrades to mention.
 • Gleaming new hardwood floors
 • New designer kitchen
 • Custom fireplace, lighting, new paint and carpet
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 Offered at \$629,000
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Prudential California Realty

Open Sunday

NORTH BERKELEY \$1,650,000
 703 LA LOMA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
 The Rees House, Maybeck & White, 1906.
 Stunning redwood, cook's kitchen/family room, legal 2nd unit or writer's retreat.
 See More @ pacunion.com. Rich Gould x1347

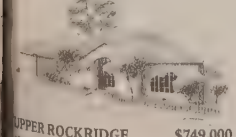


ROCKRIDGE HIGHLANDS \$1,350,000
 10 DOWNY PL. (Open 2-4:30)
 Near Piedmont border. Exquisite lighted 4BR/3BA Tudor home. Lush gardens. Recently remodeled, spectacular architectural details. Leslie Avant x1341

PIEDMONT \$1,250,000
 1590 TRENTLE GLEN RD. (Open 2-4:30)
 Stunning Spanish style home with 4BR/4BA, formal dining room & breakfast room level out to oversized patio & landscaped garden. Rosalie Woods x1324

ROCKRIDGE HIGHLANDS \$1,129,000
 100 NORTHVALE RD. (Open 2-4:30)
 Grand 5BR/4BA traditional w/plus spaces. Refinished hwd floors, landscaped large level yard, fresh paint in & out. Near shopping & transportation. Mary Montali x1350

OAKLAND HILLS \$795,000
 1009 TERRABELLA WY. (Open 2-4:30)
 Chic & sophisticated style in this dynamic 10 year old 4BR/3BA view home. Kitchen/family room combo, additional finished space. Sandi Klemmer x1314
 Dick Cohen x1308



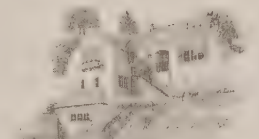
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$749,000
 1047 BUENA VISTA (Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30)
 New Listing! Stylish & classic 1920's charmer w/smashing SF bay/CG views. 3BR/1+BA, level-in, decks, large yard. Near BART & shops. Dee Knowland x1318
 Nancy Rothman 510-339-2169 x209

OAKMORE \$739,000
 2034 HOOVER AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
 Abundant light, bay views & quality decor in this remodeled 3+BR/2.5BA home. Fam rm, landscaped garden & patio, 2 fireplaces, detached garage. Donna Costella x1355

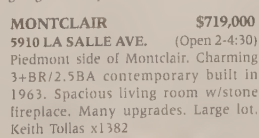
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GMAC Real Estate
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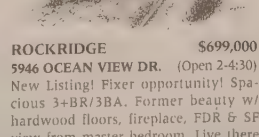
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$719,000
 36 BUCKEYE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
 New Listing! 3+BR/2.5BA home w/San Francisco, Golden Gate view. Formal dining room, hardwood floors, 1-car garage. Wendy Gardner x1303



MONTCLAIR \$719,000
 5910 LA SALLE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
 Piedmont side of Montclair. Charming 3+BR/2.5BA contemporary built in 1963. Spacious living room w/stone fireplace. Many upgrades. Large lot. Keith Tollas x1382

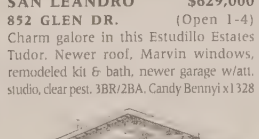


ROCKRIDGE \$699,000
 5946 OCEAN VIEW DR. (Open 2-4:30)
 New Listing! Fixer opportunity! Spacious 3+BR/3BA. Former beauty w/hardwood floors, fireplace, FDR & SF view from master bedroom. Live there & fix it up! Vicki Woodhead x1334

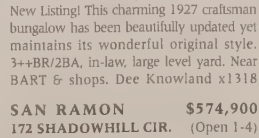


ROCKRIDGE \$639,000
 5937 TAFT AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
 3BR/1BA. Light-filled craftsman built in 1918. Excellent condition. Freshly painted. Hardwood floors, lush backyard, detached garage. Nancy Noman x1373

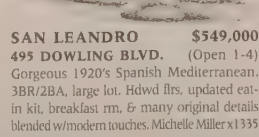
SAN LEANDRO \$629,000
 852 GLEN DR. (Open 1-4)
 Charm galore in this Estudillo Estates Tudor. Newer roof, Marvin windows, remodeled kit & bath, newer garage w/att. studio, clear pest. 3BR/2BA. Candy Benny x1328



ROCKRIDGE \$595,000
 5124 MILES AVE. (Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30)
 New Listing! This charming 1927 craftsman bungalow has been beautifully updated yet maintains its wonderful original style. 3+BR/2BA, in-law, large level yard. Near BART & shops. Dee Knowland x1318

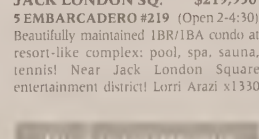


SAN RAMON \$574,900
 172 SHADOWHILL CIR. (Open 1-4)
 New Listing! Lovely 4BR/2.5BA Cambrio townhome. Cherry hardwood floors, fresh paint, end unit. Candy Benny x1328



SAN LEANDRO \$549,000
 495 DOWLING BLVD. (Open 1-4)
 Gorgeous 1920's Spanish Mediterranean. 3BR/2BA, large lot. Hwd flrs, updated eat-in kit, breakfast rm, & many original details blended w/modern touches. Michelle Miller x1335

JACK LONDON SQ. \$219,950
 5 EMBARCADERO #219 (Open 2-4:30)
 Beautifully maintained 1BR/1BA condo at resort-like complex: pool, spa, sauna, tennis! Near Jack London Square entertainment district! Lorri Arazi x1330



PIEDMONT \$4,750,000
 Magnificent English with incredible detail on 2/3 acre level land. Grand formal rooms, 6+ bedrooms, pool. Georgia Cornell x1325

PIEDMONT \$3,750,000
 Stately English Tudor with 4+bedrooms, 4+ baths, incredible architectural detail, library, family room & guest suite. Georgia Cornell x1325



OAKLAND HILLS \$869,000-875,000
 Alta Villa II. Only 4 homes remaining in this new development! Completion is scheduled for April. Four to five BR, custom touches, high ceilings & gourmet kitchens. Dramatic bay views! David Ichikawa x1331

MONTCLAIR \$529,000
 Cross street is Arrowhead. Sunny 3BR/1.5BA retreat w/tree & canyon vistas. Open flr plan. Living/dining rm w/beamed ceiling & hwd flrs, updated kit & baths. Decks & large patio. Teri Carlisle x1305

By Appointment

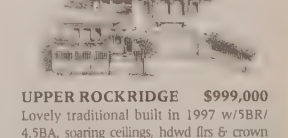
OAK KNOLL \$389,000
 Price reduced! 3BR/1BA. Refinished floors, updated bath, dual pane windows. Fireplace in living/dining room. Eat-in kit, laundry rm, 2-car gar. Lee Jacobson x1309



PIEDMONT \$3,880,000
 Magnificent Mediterranean w/SF views located on a very desirable street. Perfect for family living & large scale entertaining. Exceptional architectural details. 7BR/6.5BA. Rosalie Woods x1324



CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,375,000
 Unique & sophisticated custom home built in 1993. Full of light & open space. City & wooded views. 3BR/3.5BA, 3 fireplaces, den, hardwood floors. Peaceful yard w/landscaped rock garden. Carla Bullington x1367



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$999,000
 Lovely traditional built in 1997 w/5BR/4.5BA, soaring ceilings, hwd flrs & crown molding. Formal dining, den, large master suite & generous storage. Nancy Moore x1302



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$595,000
 SF views from this lovely 2+BR/1+BA traditional. Sun-drenched rooms w/comfortable floor plan. Beautifully remodeled kitchen. French doors to level yard. Large family room. Diane Earl McCan x1352

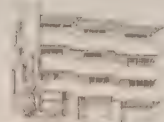
SAN LORENZO \$399,000
 Sunny, updated 3BR/1BA home. Hardwood floors. Beautiful garden with pond. Newer roof. Michelle Miller x1335

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first

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out illiteracy.
Read with
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THREE EXCELLENT INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, FROM 2:00-4:00PM



655 MACARTHUR
LAKE MERRITT DISTRICT
FOUR UNIT \$840,000

In a great location this building offers three two-story, 2 bedroom, 2-bath townhouse units and one 3-bedroom, 2 bath penthouse unit.

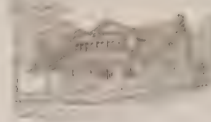
- Walk to Lake Merritt
- Walk to shops and dining
- Secure lobby with elevator
- Over 5,000 sq. ft. living space



1410 MAGNOLIA ST
WEST OAKLAND
SIX UNIT \$525,000

Between downtown, the IKEA corridor and with great access to all freeways this Deco building features six spacious 1-bedroom, 1-bath units.

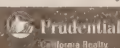
- Up and coming neighborhood
- Access to BART and parks
- Some units remodeled
- All separate meters



3006 E 17TH STREET
FRUITVALE DISTRICT
SIX UNIT \$550,000

Surrounded by fresh landscaping and featuring new roof, porch, and paint, this early Edwardian six unit building features two 1-bedroom units and four studios.

- Refurbished electrical
- Refurbished heating
- Off-street parking
- Some new kitchens

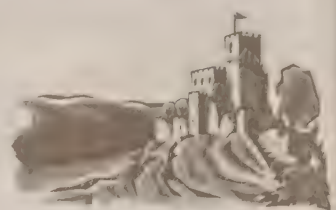


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www.mtginfo.com/cct

COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Comments
Market Indicator* Last wk 5.500 This wk 5.500					
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.000 5.466 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.000 5.665 45	15-yr Fixed 4.750 0.000 4.903 45	1-yr ARM* 1.250 0.000 1.310 45	Ref. purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval! No Doc Loans "pot neg am" M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-5:00
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.690 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.920 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 0.000 4.990 30	5/1 ARM* 4.500 0.000 4.620 30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK. "Apply online" www.superior-mtg.net
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.250 5.485 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.250 5.737 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.450 1.000 3.530 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 0.000 5.165 30	LOW RATES/ALL THE PROGRAMS CREDIT PROBLEMS OK RATES UPDATED DAILY @ AAALENDER.COM
AlmLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.125 5.585 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.000 5.655 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 0.250 4.911 30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 0.000 4.434 30	Apply and lock online 24/7 Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 866-514-7283 DOC# 6038592 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.125 5.585 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.000 5.655 30	3/1 ARM 4.750 0.000 4.911 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 0.000 4.911 30	*APR includes bank fee. Save money www.amerisave.com. Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1606	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.125 5.585 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.000 5.655 30	15-yr Fixed 4.625 1.465 4.979 30	6 Mo Interest Only 2.625 1.043 2.725 30	*Purch only 100%Financing Avail - Fast Closings. No Cost for Appraisal - Refi today! Low/MidIncome Programs Avail
Bank of America Mortgage 925-688-3760 Fees=\$1406	30-yr Fixed 5.375 1.407 5.576 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 1.197 5.626 30	6 month ARM 3.000 0.280 3.091 30	3/1 ARM 3.375 1.719 3.869 30	*Purchase only. Call for refinance Rates 925-688-3760 / 877-88-FIXED
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 DRE# 769452 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.000 5.583 35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 1.000 5.690 35	1st Time Buyer 30 4.375 0.000 4.510 30	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.500 0.000 3.620 30	*EFFECTIVE RATES AFTER FED & LOCAL SUBSIDIES FOR 1ST TIME HOME BUYER Income & price limits. 100% finan. 30 yr fix
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-6800 DRE# 0116696 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.250 1.000 5.451 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 1.000 5.639 30	5/1 ARM Jmb IO 4.500 0.000 4.546 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625 0.000 3.669 30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock, NEW Construction Home PUR
Buckingham Mtge. Corp. 866-721-4500 DOC# 603-8905 Fees=\$2135	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.000 5.440 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.000 5.690 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 0.000 3.740 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625 0.000 3.270 30	Arms & Fixed with interest only options! Stated, No Doc & No Cost Available Open 24/7, 7 days a week
California Mtge. Advisors 888-CAL-REFI #800 DRE# 01170868 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.000 5.465 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.789 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 0.000 4.035 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 0.000 4.537 30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MILLION WWW.CALMTG.COM
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.540 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.000 5.910 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 0.000 4.810 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 0.000 4.290 30	Cal-State Funding. CAN fund your loan Rates change daily, call for latest rates We are here to satisfy your needs
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.625 5.495 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 1.000 5.744 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.250 1.000 3.353 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 1.250 4.255 30	Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & stated income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit.
Countrywide Home Loans 866-551-7914 Fees=\$1215	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.500 5.723 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 0.125 5.987 30	30-yr Jmb I/O 6.250 0.000 6.213 30	12 Mo Fed Pay I/O 1.250 0.000 1.112 45	10 GUARANTEE CLOSING ON PURCHASES 80% LESS PAPERWORK FOR GOOD CREDIT FREE PREAPPROVAL FOR PURCHASES
Custom Mortgage Solutions 800-259-9510 DOC# 6038694 Fees=\$1145	30-yr Fixed 5.250 0.750 5.390 35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.500 5.770 35	15-yr Fixed 4.500 0.750 4.810 35	CODI 30 yr ARM 1.950 0.000 4.880 60	*Fast! Fast! Closings!! No Doc to \$1M *Loans to \$4,000,000. Call for Approval
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DOC# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 5.125 2.000 5.422 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 2.000 5.495 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 2.000 4.746 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 2.000 5.399 30	Apply online at www.ditech.com *Your mortgage solution. Delivered!
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DOC# 6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.375 1.250 5.515 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 1.625 5.663 45	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.250 1.000 4.684 45		Direct lender 45 yrs experience: fixed & adjust rate mtgs. "Pot. neg. amort." Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-8881 DRE# 01140455 Fees=\$1986	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.580 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.789 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 0.000 4.530 30	10/1 ARM 5.250 0.000 5.288 30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at mayhightel.com Call 7days wk mightel@1stblackhawk.com
Golden Horizon Mortgage 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1652	30-yr Fixed 5.625 0.000 5.701 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 0.000 6.033 30	15-yr Fixed 4.875 0.000 4.947 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 1.000 4.238 30	OPEN WEEKENDS, FAST & EZ APRVAL, CASH OUT NO POINT NO FEES LOANS AVAILABLE 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.250 1.000 5.440 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 1.000 5.690 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 1.000 4.190 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 1.000 4.070 30	DON'T BE "LINED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST, LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET SO MANY REFERRALS! CALL NOW!!
Lendia 888-221-9787 DOC# 6038477 Fees=\$1352	30-yr Fixed 5.125 1.875 5.380 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 1.000 5.880 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 1.875 4.440 30	1-yr ARM* 1.250 0.000 3.340 60	Low rates with NO POINTS ALSO NO CLOSING COSTS AVAILABLE "Pot neg am" Pics. online @ www.lendia.com
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DOC# 4130418 Fees=\$1831	30-yr Fixed 5.000 1.750 5.220 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 1.880 5.395 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 1.500 4.658 30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.375 0.000 5.481 30	Good & Bad Credit Considered Brokers welcome! Great Commercial Loans! visit us at www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com
Mortgage Center USA 800-640-5588 DRE# 00818116 Fees=\$1770	30-yr Fixed 5.250 2.000 5.490 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 2.000 5.640 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 2.000 4.810 30	10 yr Int Only ARM 3.000 0.000 3.230 30	5/1 3.825 2pts 3.922 APR WOW!! INT ONLY NO COST LOANS E Bay Offices 800-640-5588 Purchase and Refinance Specialist
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 0087562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.590 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.872 30	15-yr Fixed 4.875 0.000 5.026 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 0.000 3.872 30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty! all gov't loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction
National Financial Corp. 510-818-9966 DRE# 965926 Fees=\$1600	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.596 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.808 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 0.000 4.047 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 0.000 4.739 30	Easy qualification. Fast approval. No income. No assets. No Credit. No Green Card. Call us
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.604 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.796 30	6 month ARM call		WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are available! (3yr ppp) E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.604 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.796 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 0.000 4.542 30	5/1 ARM 4.250 0.000 4.347 30	Se Habla Espanol. 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DOC# 4130388 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.000 5.435 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 0.000 5.653 30	3/1 ARM 3.375 0.000 3.393 30	5/1 ARM 3.875 0.000 3.913 30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Purchase specialist-we get loans closed! Great jumbo and interest Only programs
Santelli & Associates 800-516-0656 DRE# 00549593 Fees=\$1745	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.000 5.466 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.790 30	3/1 ARM 3.600 0.000 3.582 25	30-yr ARM* 1.950 0.000 4.759 30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 0 POINTS - 0 COSTS avail INTEREST ONLY / 0 DOWN PMT/full work 4.67 APPLY ONLINE AT www.loanpanetwork.com
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220326 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.550 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.770 45	15-yr Fixed 4.875 0.000 4.960 45	5/1 ARM 4.375 0.000 4.180 45	Loan for all credit grades! No income Credit Loans No Upfront Fees Purh/Refi to 100%. Saratogabancorp.com
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed 5.500 1.000 5.803 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.750 5.937 30	1 yr ARM* 1.250 0.000 3.627 60	Rental Property 1.650 0.000 4.048 60	Purchases: 5 day close/no points Complimentary pre-approvals. Available 7 days a week "Pot def int"
Western Capital Mortgage 408-615-9355 DRE# 01080489 Fees=\$1630	30-yr Fixed 5.375 0.125 5.501 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.801 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 0.000 4.945 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 0.125 5.229 30	No Closing Cost Loans Available Ask about our 5/1 & 7/1 ARMs & BALLOONS Apply Online at www.lowestrates.com

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- ◆ Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- ◆ Check out our useful mortgage calculators
- ◆ Prequalify, preapprove or apply online

Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$333,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Avg 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs based on a \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website - contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781-276-1711

Gallagher and Lindsey, Inc.
REALTORS

521-8181

523-1010



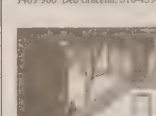
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

2945 RAWSON OAKLAND MAXWELL PARK
BEAUTY 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors
sunny, formal dining, fireplace and great condition
Finished basement, large level lot and 2 car garage
\$469,900. Deb Gencella, 510-459-7623



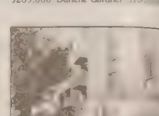
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

1437 MORTON ST. #4, ALAMEDA
UNIT 2 large bedrooms with large closets
baths, large living room with open fireplace
parking and storage unit. Call: Verna
\$269,000. Darlene Gardner, 510-459-7623



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

2620 ENCINAL AVE., ALAMEDA LEGAL
TRIPLEX 1 units. One unit will be open for
previewing. Upper unit has 2 bedrooms, lower units
each have 1 bedroom. \$685,000
Ann Bracci, 510-747-1620



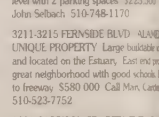
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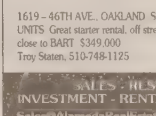
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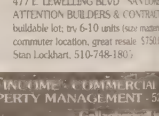
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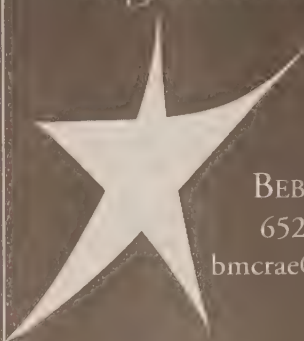
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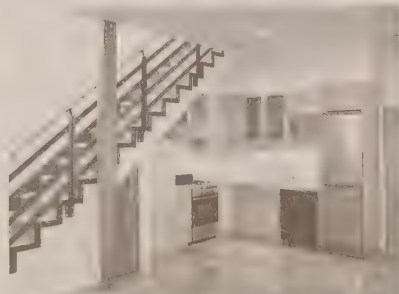


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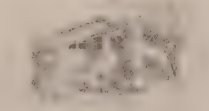


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SPORTS

• Friday, February 6, 2004 •

Section C

Berkeley can't take advantage of chances

Yellow Jackets can just
manage a 0-0 tie against
Piedmont

By Scott Strain
STAFF WRITER
Piedmont — The Berkeley
School girls soccer team
had chances against Piedmont
Thursday afternoon, but were
denied.
The Highlanders had far
more opportunities against the
Jackets, and they were
denied.
The result was a 0-0 tie at Wit-
land and the best chances to
score came early for both teams.
Piedmont did not get too
many good chances against a
solid Berkeley defense, but
Laura Lubin pushed a shot right
into Berkeley goalkeeper Laura
at seven minutes and that
was the best opportunity the

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Highlanders had until Lubin tried
a corner kick at 38 minutes.
For Berkeley, Kira Mandella
passed to Kristina Hill in front
of the Piedmont goal and Hill
pushed the shot just past the
right side of the goal in the fourth
minute. Laura Rose had an op-
portunity two minutes later that
was denied and Hill had a shot
blocked by Piedmont's Lauren
Van Maren at eight minutes.
The Yellow Jackets' best
chance in the second half came
at 61 minutes when Piedmont
goalkeeper Rosie Aguilera
smothered an open shot by Hill
just in front of the Highlanders' goal.
Katie Bowen was able to get
a shot at Dale at 42 minutes, but
the Yellow Jackets' goalkeeper

smothered it.
"Our defense was very good,"
Berkeley coach Suzanne Sillett
said. "I don't think they (the
Highlanders) got a shot on frame
all day. On offense we missed a
lot of chances, but their defense
was also very good."
The Yellow Jackets got two
saves from goalkeeper Dale.
Berkeley (15-4-1) forced Aguilera
to make nine saves for Piedmont
(14-3-3).
Salesian 3, St. Mary's 1: And-
rea Salvador scored two goals
as the Chieftains beat the host
Panthers in BSAL play last Fri-
day.
Salvador opened the scoring
for the Chieftains (14-1-2, 12-1-1
BSAL) with a goal in the fourth
minute. Kelsey Bethel then made
it 2-0 with a goal four minutes
later.
Lauren Detmer put the Pan-
thers (6-10-1, 4-8-0) on the board,

to cut the lead to 2-1 at the half.
Salvador put the game away with
her second goal in 41st minute.
BOYS SOCCER
St. Mary's 1, Salesian 0: The
Hadley brothers connected for the
only goal of this Bay Shore Ath-
letic League contest in Richmond
last Friday. Miles Hadley, a fresh-
man midfielder, slotted a pass to
Jason Hadley, a senior forward,
who deposited the ball near the
far post at the 31-minute mark.
The Panthers improved to 11-
4-2, 9-1-2 BSAL. Salesian is 7-6-
1 in BSAL play.
Albany 3, St. Joseph 2:
Bernardo Simonard took a rico-
chet off the crossbar and de-
posited the ball into the net in
the final minutes of the game for
the winning goal last Friday.
Teammate Spenser Dill added
two goals for visiting Albany (14-
4-1, 11-2 BSAL). St. Joseph is 3-
7-1 BSAL.



BERKELEY HIGH'S Kristina Hill, left, and Molly McClary of Piedmont try to get control of the ball during their match that ended in a 0-0 tie.

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

ACCAL will use tiebreaker

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER
THE ALAMEDA CONTRA
Costa Athletic League
has a new tiebreaker to
decide the league's auto-
bid to the North Coast
playoffs in all team
sports except for football, and
it has already been used once this
year.
The first two steps in the
tiebreaker system do
not resolve the tie, a one-game
tiebreaker will be used if time per-
mits and a facility is available
to host the automatic bid to
the CCS playoffs. Both teams
remain co-champions of
ACCAL.
There was a different third
tiebreaker used the last three
years, said ACCAL commis-
sioner Bill Jones.
The third step was
drawing numbers drawn es-
sentially out of the hat. Jones
(This new ruling) was a
result by the athletic direc-
tor as much as possible, they
like things decided on
the field of play.
The new tiebreaker was
used by the ACCAL Board of
Directors last April. It was
used in girls tennis this season.
Berkeley edged Berkeley 4-3 in
a match on Nov. 6 to earn the
See ACCAL, Page 2

Season gets longer for John Swett

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER
WITH JUST SEVEN
points in the Bay
Shore Athletic League
playoffs, the John Swett High
School boys soccer team is not
having the best of seasons.
When things just got a little
better when the Mike Davis
Indians' starting goal-
keeper, was red carded in a 5-0
loss to Kennedy on Jan. 30 and
was forced to sit out
Wednesday's match against St.
Elizabeth.
When not saying we would
lose, St. Elizabeth, but we have
a chance of winning with
him in the lineup," Indians' coach
Bill Perla said.
According to Perla, the inci-
dent occurred midway through
the match when David moved
to the middle, out of the
play area to play a loose
ball. But the attacker was
more than Davis anticipated
and got to the ball first.
The attacker, taking on the
goalkeeper one-on-one, at-
tempted a shot, but Davis,
who was outside the box,
made the mistake of putting his
hand out to block the shot.
Perla said he tried to pull his
son back, but he realized his
son was too late, resulting in
See BSAL, Page 2

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL



BERKELEY HIGH'S Dior Lowhorn, left, a transfer from Archbishop Riordan-San Francisco, has averaged a team-high 24.6 points a game.

Yellow Jackets are on a mission

■ A tough loss in the CIF
semifinals inspires
Berkeley to a hot start in
the ACCAL

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER

Still haunted by thoughts of
last year's heartbreaking loss in
the California Interscholastic Fed-
eration Division I semifinal, the
Berkeley High School boys basket-
ball team is determined to
show the competition what the
Yellow Jackets can really do.
So far that determination has
translated into a 7-0 Alameda
Contra Costa Athletic League
record as they enter the second
half of the league season.
"We were just one shot away
from the NorCal Division I cham-
pionship," Yellow Jackets coach
Mike Gragnani said referring to
the team's NorCal semifinals
match up with Oakland Tech.

The teams were tied at 57 all
with seconds left in regulation
when Kenneth Alexander
drained what could have been
the game-winner for Berkeley,
but time expired before he got
the shot off.
The overtime period belonged
to the Bulldogs, who went on to
hand Berkeley a 73-64 defeat.
This year, the Yellow Jackets
have burst out of the gates with
added intensity, running
roughshod through the first half
of the ACCAL season.
"We all know we're better, and
we have to go farther. We're try-
ing to be more focused than last
year," Yellow Jackets point guard
Shaun Burl said.
The Yellow Jackets haven't
had to change a whole lot with
the exception of getting used to
the fact that there's plenty of ex-
perience on the roster.
The team is aided by four se-
niors in Burl, Jason Maples, Jack
McSweeney and Kevin Mc-

Glothen, who started the week
with a combined 452 points and
have pleased Gragnani with their
collective leadership and influ-
ence on younger players.
"We have plenty of experi-
enced vets on the team. I know
what to expect and they tutor
and keep the young players
grounded," Gragnani said.
But the big difference has
been Dior Lowhorn, a transfer
out of Archbishop Riordan-San
Francisco.
Lowhorn, a 6-foot-6 center,
has made quite an impression,
placing second in the region in
scoring with a 24.6 points per
game average at the start of the
week.
"He's a huge boost and a
dominant player. He's scratching
the surface of how good he'll be,"
Gragnani said.
"He's the centerpiece of our
offense," added Burl. "Nobody
can stop him five feet from the
basket to the low post."

Berkeley has not been with-
out its obstacles.
Despite their outstanding
record and lopsided scores
against league opponents, the
Yellow Jackets needed to work
out team chemistry and consis-
tency on defense early in the se-
son.
The team is not a particularly
close one off the court, said Burl,
but on the hard wood the team
is always on the same page. Even
Lowhorn needed some time to
work out the kinks of joining a
new system, and Burl said he's
adjusted extremely well, noting
a vast improvement in his play
since game one.
Defensively Gragnani called
the team's efforts "streaky," re-
calling several instances where
the Yellow Jackets failed to pro-
tect a big lead through the half.
This criticism came despite the
team outscoring its last four op-
ponents.

See BERKELEY, Page 2

St. Mary's loses critical BSAL showdown

By Chace Bryson
STAFF WRITER

Had the Salesian High School
boys basketball team lost its
game against St. Mary's on Sat-
urday night, it would have been
easy to point to its free-throw
shooting as one of the reasons.
That is until David Singleton
and Kendall McCree each
knocked down a pair of free
throws inside the final 16 sec-
onds to help secure the Chieftains'
64-62 Bay Shore Athletic League
victory at Contra Costa
College in San Pablo.
"We finally got it into the
hands of the right people," Sale-

sian coach Bill Mellis said of his
team's free throw shooting.
"Those two guys are good free-
throw shooters and they made it
count."
The Chieftains (12-5, 4-1
BSAL) were just 3-for-12 from
the line before Singleton and Mc-
Cree combined to sink four
straight.
St. Mary's (16-5, 5-1) trailed
by as many as 11 points in the
second half and was down by 10
early in the fourth quarter.
Larry Gurganious, who scored
24 points through the first three
quarters, was held without a
point in the final eight minutes

as the Panthers made their big
push behind the scoring of Ed-
ward Wright.
Wright scored 13 of his 19
points in the fourth quarter and
his slam dunk with 1:05 remain-
ing in the game brought St.
Mary's within 60-59. The Pan-
thers then got a defensive stop
and called timeout with 29 sec-
onds to go in the game and 18
seconds left on the shot clock.
Out of the timeout, the Pan-
thers cleared out for Gurganious,
who drove past his man but
couldn't convert his attempt at a



ST. MARY'S Jordan Thurston, right, tries to get around Salesian's Eric Shelton.



WIN CURRIER

Lewis was one of the great ones

IT WON'T BE any different
this year. Regardless of how
the Boston Red Sox fare in the
2004 baseball season, we'll
hear references to "The Curse
of the Bambino."
We don't hear or read all
that much about the pre-curse
era when the Red Sox actually
won a World Series.
Or when someone was
called on to pinch hit for Babe
Ruth ... the "Bambino" who
was a star Red Sox pitcher.
Or of the Alamedan who
played a key role in that era.
His name was George Ed-
ward Lewis, nicknamed (for
obscure reasons) "Duffy."
Lewis was the first
Alamedan (although he was
born in San Francisco, he grew
up in Alameda) to reach the
major leagues. He also is one
of the more forgotten ones
when folks rattle off lists of lo-
cal boys who made good in
baseball.
He's also the answer to a
trivia question: Who was the
first man to pinch hit for Babe
Ruth?

Researching something to-
tally unrelated to Lewis in the
Alameda Free Public Library,
an item jumped out (not liter-
ally, of course) announcing a
1947 testimonial dinner hon-
oring Duffy Lewis that was
scheduled in Boston. It added
that an Alameda committee
was raising money for a gift of
some sort. What it was, by the
way, defies research, but based
on the committee membership,
it must have been something
impressive.
Lewis, who was born April
18, 1888, was 59 at the time
and would live to 91. He died
in Salem, N.H., June 17, 1979.
Dedicated baseball fans
have heard of Coogan's Bluff at
New York's Polo Grounds. Not
all that many have heard of
"Duffy's Cliff," which was a
landmark in Fenway Park's left
field before the fabled "Green
Monster."
The cliff was Duffy Lewis'
domain. It was also a curse for
visiting teams, who probably
had another name for this ap-
proximately 15-foot incline
(various sources list the slope
at heights ranging from 10-15
feet) on which Lewis and Lewis
alone thrived.
Joe Kaney, who had a gas
station at Oak Street and Cen-
tral Avenue (where a video
store now shares space with a
parking lot), received a letter
announcing the testimonial set
for Sept. 22, 1947, at Boston's
Statler Hotel ballroom.
Lewis was part of a great —
if not, the best ever — defen-
sive outfield with Tris Speaker
in center and Harry Hooper in
right.
Enclosed in the letter signed
by Ralph "Babe" Rubenstein
was a clipping of a column
See CURRIER, Page 2

El Cerrito takes control of ACCAL

By Kibby Kleiman

STAFF WRITER

El Cerrito High School's girls basketball team spent the first half shutting down Pinole Valley's Jontelle Smith. In the second half, it clamped down on the entire Spartans team.

The Gauchos gained sole possession of first place in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League by beating Pinole Valley 58-44 Friday night, running their record to 14-4, 6-0 in league.

El Cerrito coach Ron Williams said his squad spent the week of practice getting focused on "going after the shooter." In this case, that meant Spartans guard Smith, who came into the game with the region's highest scoring average of 20.5 points per game.

In the first half, the Gauchos used three players to keep Smith from getting a good shot. Her 3-point shot with six minutes to go in the second quarter was her

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

only bucket of the half.

By that time, El Cerrito had just completed a 13-0 run and held a 22-10 lead, one it never relinquished.

The host Gauchos used a balanced offensive attack, with all of their starters scoring at least eight points. Senior guard Marqueta Green led the Gauchos with 13 points, five assists and four steals. Green also hounded Smith, picking up four fouls early, but avoided the fifth and disqualifying infraction.

With a 32-24 halftime lead, El Cerrito continued to make life miserable for Smith and the rest of the Spartans. Pinole Valley made only two shots from the field in the game's final two quarters.

After Smith converted her sec-

ond 3-point shot with 2:15 left in the third quarter, the Spartans didn't sink another field goal for the rest of the game.

El Cerrito was up only 43-35 at the end of three quarters, however, because it kept putting Pinole Valley on the free-throw line. Smith made 11 of 13 free throws, and the Spartans managed to stay in the game with an impressive 24-for-28 night at the line.

The Gauchos extended their lead to 50-37 when Green pulled up and hit a 3. Pinole Valley (13-7, 5-1) could only foul, and watch its ACCAL rival calmly sink six of its last eight free throws to clinch the win.

Williams said it was a big win for his team.

"We really wanted this one," he said. "They are a dangerous team, and we know what Jontelle (Smith) can do. It was an excellent showing by our seniors.

They kept their cool, they didn't panic. That's what senior leadership can do."

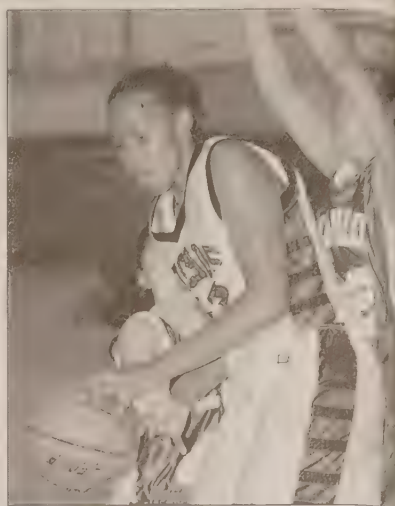
Smith led all scorers with 17 points.

Berkeley 53, Reno 44: It was a happy bus ride home for the Yellow Jackets, who outscored the Huskies 26-11 in the fourth quarter to pull away in a non-league contest on Saturday.

Berkeley (12-8) entered the fourth quarter trailing 33-27 but turned up the intensity over the final eight minutes against Reno (15-7).

"That's the second year we've gone up there, (4,500)-foot elevation, and they tire out at the end of the game," Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura said. "It seemed like we were the ones with energy at the end and not the home team."

Danasha Wright scored 16 points for the Yellow Jackets.



EL CERRITO'S Jordan McCormick, left, contends with Pinole Valley's defensive pressure.

Currier

FROM PAGE 1

about the event written by Dave Egan of the Boston Daily Record and the suggestion that Lewis' fellow-Alamedans "might like to contribute."

Kaney then headed a committee, including W.W. Ward (the Bill Ward who had an Associated gas station at Webb and Park and was perennial chairman of the Alameda Boosters) and John G. "Doc" Croll. Early contributors included, in addition to the committee, Ollie Fisher (whose J.J. Krieg girls softball team won the national championship—the first championship west of the Mississippi), Tony Finocchio (who owned the LaFiesta lounge in both of its Webster Street locations, was a Booster leader and later owner of the Redding club in the Far West League), Hugh Gallagher (Smiley & Gallagher Mortuary), "Porky" Ryan, Al Pola, Harry French, Ray French and Joe Kaney Jr.

Lewis had been quoted in his playing days as saying he experimented with the incline, learning how to play the slope correctly and that "you had to come down running with runners on base."

The left-hander was also famous for his "clothesline throws" and it was said that to be hit by one of his throws would be very hazardous.

Lewis joined the Red Sox in 1910 and batted a career-high .307 in 1911. He also hit .444 in the 1915 World Series, won by the Red Sox four games to one over the Phillies.

He also was a model of consistency.

The 5-foot-10½, 165-pound Lewis, whose official major-league debut is listed as April 16, 1910, never batted below .268 until closing his major league career with a .186 average in 27 games in 1921. His 11-year career included 1,459 games with 5,351 at-bats and a .289 lifetime average. He hit 38 home runs, 68 triples, 289 doubles, batted in 793 runs and stole 113 bases ... all this with a lifetime fielding average of .959.

Lewis was sent in 1919 to the Yankees in a seven-player deal and after two seasons there, was traded to Washington where his 11 year major league player career (1910-1917, 1919-1921) ended. After opening the 1921 season with Washington, Lewis became a manager in the Pacific Coast League before returning to Boston with the National League Braves, for whom he served as traveling secretary from 1935-61.

Lewis' major league playing career was over, but not his baseball career. The Pacific Coast League, then as now, started later (and then played more games) than the majors. So in 1921 he became player-manager of the Salt Lake City team, hit .403 in 162 games and, according to the Bill

O'Neal book "The Pacific Coast League 1903-1988," "played spectacularly."

Lewis, incidentally, was not the only Alamedan to win a PCL batting championship. Smead Jolley, who lived in Alameda most of his adult life and was a regular in Alameda Winter League baseball, won the batting championship in 1927 and 1928 playing for the San Francisco Seals and in 1938 playing for the Hollywood Stars.

In the Richard Leutzing book, "Lefty O'Doul, The Legend Baseball Nearly Forgot," is the story about O'Doul pitching for the Salt Lake City Bees and, after a rival hit a home run, O'Doul went to manager Lewis and said he wanted to be an outfielder. "You don't know how to play the outfield," Lewis said. "I'll learn," O'Doul snapped.

O'Doul had his chance when the wife of a teammate became ill and the player had to leave the game. O'Doul replaced him in the outfield and hit so well the other player never regained his spot.

The book has another Lewis reference. Baseball historian Fred Loeb wrote (about the Yankees), "As in 1919, the writers, almost to a man urged a place for O'Doul in the lineup. I recall I urged an outfield of Duffy Lewis in left, O'Doul in center and Ruth in right."

In 1922, Lewis hit .362 with 20 home runs and 108 RBI. In the 1924 season, Lewis won the batting championship with a .392 average, including 28 home runs. The team batting average in the light air of Salt Lake City's Bonneville Park was a lofty .327. Salt Lake City was in the PCL from 1915-25, then returned in 1958.

Egan's column indicated Lewis' tremendous popularity in Boston, saying of the testimonial committee members, "the most violent of the left wingers held out bitterly for the spacious Boston Common. The moderates were willing to settle for the Boston Garden. But in the end, the extreme reactionaries won out and so the grand ballroom of the Hotel Statler was chosen ... where Lewis will be honored by his friends. And I tell 'em they'll have to put tables out on the sidewalk and stretching down the street."

Egan went on to note, "Duff now is 59 years old and has spent exactly 59 years making friends. It is a remarkable tribute to him as a person that he will be honored a full 30 years after he heroed his way across the headlines of the nation."

Egan wrote that he was just a kid "when he (Lewis) doubled across the run for the Red Sox that gave Smokey Joe Wood a 1-0 victory over Walter Johnson in the most famous pitching duel of all the years of baseball." Egan also recalled Lewis batting .444 in the 1915 Series "to lead one of the great teams of all time to victory."

It was noted that Lewis "was

part of the greatest outfield that ever roamed the range, the outfield of Lewis and Speaker and Hooper, which, 30 years later, still serves as the standard by which all outfielders are measured.

"They will be together again, the three of them, when the banquet board groans at the Statler. Duff is bald by now, Speaker is gray and handsome. And of Hooper, I would not know for I have never seen him. But once they were young, and in their youth they were invincible and it's regrettable that some of us were born too late to have seen them."

It goes on that Lewis was not being given the testimonial "because he busted up a pitching duel 34 years ago or starred in the succession of World Series which made Boston the greatest little ball town in the nation, or went broke with many another in the stock market crash, or went broker still when his home in California burned down with all his World Series trophies and all his neckties therein, or is today the traveling secretary of the Braves.

"There are many men who starred in the field of sports. There are many men who have had personal misfortunes, there are many men who are traveling secretaries. But there is only one Duffy Lewis. God was having a good day when He made him. And that is the reason for this affair."

Continuing, Egan wrote that Duff "has and always will have the delight of a child in bright colors. A drab, ordinary vest would not do him back when he was a champion among champions. No, he'd lean back in a chair in the sunny evening in front of Putnam's Hotel and he'd be wearing a black velvet vest, and simple ordinary buttons would not do for such an elegant vest, he'd have diamonds gleaming there.

"To this day he loves howlers of neckties, second only to Eleanor, his wife, and there are times when she is not sure that she doesn't run second. They are all handmade. They are all weirdly wonderful. They are all inscribed, "Made especially for Duffy Lewis," and he must have more than 500 of them ... and when he carefully chooses one and gives it to a fellow, then the fellow understands that he has been taken into Duffy's vast heart and is a friend forever more."

Egan, by the way, was given three, which he (Egan) "treasures" and "like everybody else who knows him, I treasure the man who gave them."

He wrote that "in the course of a lifetime (Lewis) has been mainly devoted to just being a good, decent, warm-hearted member of the human race. No man ever more fully deserved a testimonial than plain and modest George (Duffy) Lewis."

Alameda can be justifiably proud of his legacy, of which is too little known.

Berkeley

FROM PAGE 1

ponents 332-188. Yet Gragnani remains a stickler on details and isn't shy about challenging his team if he feels the effort isn't

St. Mary's

FROM PAGE 1

reverse layup. Salesian's Marcus Payne cleared the rebound and got it to Singleton, who was fouled with 15.5 seconds remaining.

Singleton's two free throws made it 62-59 and forced St. Mary's Jordan Thurston to put up a 3-point attempt, which fell short and was rebounded by McCree. McCree then hit his two free throws for a 64-59 advantage with 6.5 seconds left.

Thurston hit a 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left, but the Panthers were out of timeouts and could not stop the clock. Salesian students rushed the floor in celebration.

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

NCS team automatic berth after both teams finished the ACCAL regular season with 7-1 records.

THE RISE OF WENDELL MCKINES: Richmond's super freshman forward/center has been racking up some impressive numbers this league season. Entering this week's action, McKines has scored 19 points or more in every ACCAL game for Richmond and has topped 30 points in six of the seven games. The only game he didn't score 30 points was against league-leader Berkeley. He is averaging 33.4 points per game in the league season, including a 40-point, 24 rebound effort in Richmond's 72-62 win over Encinal on Jan. 27 and 13 blocks in the Oilers' 79-71 victory over Alameda on Jan. 30.

CLOSE RACE: One of the

there.

"We're going in streaks. I'm looking to solidify the concept of one defensive unit and have them work with synergy," he said. I know they're capable of doing it."

Having dominated the ACCAL midway through the season, the

bration.

"It was a big game and we still had opportunities to win it," St. Mary's coach Manny Nodar said. "We have nothing to be ashamed of."

The Chieftains had lost their last eight matchups against St. Mary's, including playoff games. Salesian last beat the Panthers in a league playoff on Feb. 26, 2000. It had not won a regular-season game against St. Mary's since Jan. 22, 1999.

Pinole Valley 57, El Cerrito 56: John Smith scored 24 points and John Bryant scored 20, including the game-winner, as the Spartans outlasted the visiting Gauchos in Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League play last Friday.

close league races this winter season is in girls basketball, where five teams were within three games of the lead entering play this week. El Cerrito was 6-0 in league action, but right behind the Gauchos were Pinole Valley (5-1) and Hercules, Encinal and Alameda, all with 3-3 records.

An interesting matchup tonight is Alameda at Pinole Valley. On Tuesday, Hercules hosts El Cerrito and Pinole Valley visits Encinal in two more games that could have an impact on the ACCAL race.

BERKELEY SOCCER FORFEIT: The ACCAL Board of Managers decided Tuesday that Berkeley's boys soccer team will forfeit its final two league games and made sanctions against the program, according to ACCAL commissioner Bill Jones.

Berkeley has played 24 games, the maximum allowed by North Coast Section rules, after Tuesday's 3-2 loss to

Yellow Jackets are away bull's eye on their back ten much bigger. But the Gragnani little reason as he has more than ten in his players to get the

"I knew we'd be good, was the ques-

The Spartans (14-5 CAL) trailed through game but managed to close. With 12 seconds trailing 56-55, the Spartans last chance after Byron Davis missed a

With time running out, tan Newsome missed a shot but Bryant tipped the ball in. Pinole Valley its the game with 2.7 seconds remaining.

It was almost enough Patrick Mitchell to give chos (13-6, 4-3) the win, but time out, however, he too bound pass down the and banked home a 3-point shot. The buzzer did not beat the buzzer led the Gauchos with

Alameda. There are two games remaining on the rule.

Jones said the forfeit count against Berkeley's record, but will not count overall games played to NCS rules, adding that Berkeley is still eligible to play for NCS postseason.

The board of managers voted to render sanctions including a formal letter of reprimand from the league president, Bill Sonneman, of Encinal, Jones said.

The other sanctions included that Berkeley would close its 2004-2005 boys schedule by two games. Berkeley will play both its scheduled league games next season against De Anza and Pinole Valley at those schools, Jones said. The Berkeley representatives indicated the school may take other actions against the boys' program, Jones said.

the standings.

According to Kamsoung, only two players from his roster of 15 attended the Jan. 29 practice. The poor turnout irritated the Eagles skipper to the point that he sought to forfeit the match the next day as a punishment.

He consulted with Kennedy athletic director Darryl Creighton, but was overruled because he felt the procedures for the forfeit was more trouble

than it was worth.

"He said just play the game and we'll punish them day," Kamsoung said. The Eagles played as scheduled and the game was pleasantly surprising.

The first half had been a tie, but in the second half, the Eagles traded goals for tie at the half. But in the end, it was all Kennedy. Eagles posted three unanswered goals.

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Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

with Selby Wall (Christina Ricci), the lesbian lover who ended up testifying against her. — S. Holden. (R: graphic rape scene, several murders and abundant profanity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. **B+**

"MYSTIC RIVER": There are many reasons to admire this dark drama, from the remarkable level of acting talent to the maturity and measured elegance of Clint Eastwood's direction. The film stimulates its audience like a classic old-fashioned mystery, the tension building to almost painful levels. Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Pols. (R: language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. **A-**

"THE PERFECT SCORE": At first, it seems to be a relatively edgy teen comedy about six high school students who challenge the take-the-SAT-or-take-the-highway college admissions system by swiping the test instead of actually buying it. But it tries to have it both ways, and its beat-the-curve-system theme morphs into Learn a Valuable Lesson. The cast, including Scarlett Johansson and the very funny Leonardo Nam, do what they can to keep things lively. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: language, sexual content, some drug references.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. **C+**

"PETER PAN": A lavish spectacle with a bittersweet core, an old-fashioned family treat. P.J. Hogan may have created a classic of his own, by staying true to J.M. Barrie's beloved source material. Peter Pan is played by a boy, which is refreshing, and this Wendy has more dimension than most. — M. Pols. (PG: action sequences and peril.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. **B+**

"PIECES OF APRIL": With a theme about a dying mother (Patricia Clarkson), an estranged daughter (Katie Holmes), and a Thanksgiving dinner reunion, this film from writer/director Peter Hedges has the potential to be as cloying as sweet potato pie. But Hedges gracefully dodges that bullet, delivering a movie darkly funny and deeply touching at the same time. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, sensuality, drug content and images of nudity.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. **A-**

"THE SAME RIVER TWICE": Piercingly poignant then-and-now portrait of five friends who worked as summer guides on the Colorado River. In 1978, Robb Moss made a short 16mm movie, "Riverdogs," recording a monthlong communal trip down the Colorado. Ex-

cerpts from that film make up the "then" portions of this documentary. Cutting back and forth between then and now, Moss is more interested in contrasting moods and textures of life at different ages and eras than compiling a documentary history. — S. Holden. (Not rated; includes some nudity.) 1 hour, 18 minutes. **B**

"SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE": When making a love story, you've got to consider the kissability of your stars. Watching this movie, it's hard to imagine anyone wanting to smooch the male lead. That would be Jack Nicholson, as a raffish music executive who starts out dating a young woman (Amanda Peet), but finds himself falling for her mother (Diane Keaton). This was an opportunity to make a statement about truly adult romance, but director Nancy Meyers blows it. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, brief nudity, strong language.) **C**

"THE STATION AGENT": A reticent dwarf, a grieving mother and a chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch. Sounds like the setup to a joke, but it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle, despite their antisocial tendencies. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. **B+**

"TORQUE": In this big-studio biker thriller, the laughs, intentional and otherwise, come fast and furious. Martin Henderson is a hunky biker back in town to clear his name with the feds, to set up the drug dealer who got him into trouble and to reclaim his woman, Shane (Monet Mazur). Ford dodges the Hellions, led by Henry James (Matt Schulze), and runs afoul of the Reapers, led by Ice Cube. The riding is a frenzy of special effects, as Triumphs, Hondas, Yamahas and some crotch rocket called a Y2K do things that no motorcycle should do.

"Torque" is just the sort of film it aspires to be — a chase picture for 12-year-olds. — R. Moore. (PG-13: violence, sexuality, language and drug references.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. **D**

"21 GRAMS": Like Mexican director Gonzalez Inarritu's last film, "Amores Perros," this one is about the ways tragedy (in this case a car accident) creates an unstoppable emotional maelstrom for those involved. Its artsy, choppy style distracts from the truth: that the film is permeated with melodrama and not as deep as it seems. Sean Penn is great in the lead, but better in "Mystic River." — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality, some violence

and drug use.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. **B-**

"WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON!": A movie star needs a reputation makeover, so his managers arrange a contest for a young lady to win a date. He's charmed by how sweet and down-to-earth she is and decides to pursue her, much to the chagrin of the hometown boy who's loved her from afar for years. Hardly groundbreaking, but offers some basic lessons on how the tired romantic comedy genre can be revitalized. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, some drug references and language.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. **B**

"YOU GOT SERVED": David and Elgin, leaders of a street dance troupe, take on all comers. No crew in Los Angeles can touch their scintillating moves until Wade, a smirky, spiky-haired suburban white boy, brings in a pack to steal their thunder. After besting the pair, he snarls, "You suckers got served!" The plot — and there really isn't enough of one to fill a music video — revolves around a rift between David and Elgin. Will the guys patch up their differences in time for the big dance contest and a chance to show up Wade? Duh! — D. Hiltbrand. (PG-13: drug and sexual references, mild violence.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. **D**

"YOUNG BLACK STALLION": A horse of a very familiar color. This is a prequel to "The Black Stallion," but not by the people who made that magnificent film, it's your basic plucky kid and majestic animal movie set in a picturesque locale (Egypt), but with a very muddy plot. Gorgeous IMAX photography. — C. Hewitt. (G) 45 minutes. **C-**

Obituaries and In Memoriam

Ruth E. Johnson

Ruth E. Johnson, passed away Sunday, January 18, 2004 in Berkeley at the age of 83. A native of Idaho and resident of Berkeley for 65 years. Ruth worked as a Research Associate at UC Berkeley. She was also a long time member of the First Baptist Church of Oakland.

A graveside service was held Monday, February 2, 2004 at Sunset View Cemetery, El Cerrito Pastor Dale Edmondson officiated.

Donations may be sent to your local Salvation Army
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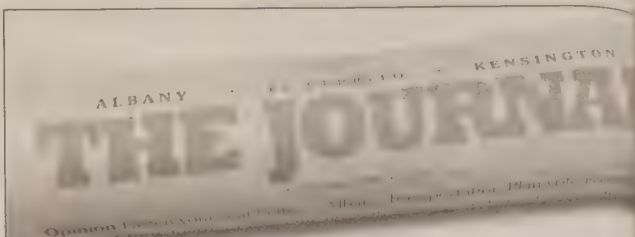
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Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. Feb.
10, Live Oak Theatre, 1301
Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999
www.ensembleofberkeley.org

PIZZA PLAYHOUSE — "Pizza
Man of Destiny," through Feb.
The three acts of this play follow
the hilarious stories of three different
pizzas, all played out in the same
at the Pizza Hotel.

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER —
"Love Fest 2004: A Literary and Musi-
cal Celebration of Love," Feb. 14, 7
p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Hosted by Aya de
Leon with Melissa Bernal, Shawn Tay-
lor, James Kass, Corina Pella, Kim
Cook, Nonameko and Elaine Chao.
\$10 to \$12. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berke-
ley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE — "Ten
Times Table," through Feb. 28. A
comedy about an inept group of vil-
lagers who try to organize a com-
memorative pageant about the 17th-
century "Massacre of the Pendon
Twelve."

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER —
"I wish to say..." Feb. 10, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
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WESTERN SKY STUDIO — "A Body
Tales Performance/Video Project" by
Olivia Corson and Lysa Castro, Feb. 7
and Feb. 8. An improvisational move-
ment theater piece with solo and duo
pieces.
\$10 to \$30. Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sun-

day, 2:30 p.m. 2525 Eighth St., Berke-
ley. 510-649-1791 or
www.bodytales.com

ALBATROSS PUB — Larry Steff Jazz
Quartet, Feb. 14.
\$3. Shows begin Wednesdays, 9 p.m.;
Saturdays, 9:30 p.m. 1822 San Pablo
Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or
www.albatrosspub.com

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — The Katy
Jay Band, Feb. 6.
Nicole and the Sisters in Soul, Feb. 11.
A Touch of Soul, Feb. 12.
Seventy, Feb. 13.
Rock 'n' Roll with Nicole, Feb. 14.
Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at
9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-
647-1790 or
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BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Acoustic
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Ken El Lebrijano Flamenco Guitar, Feb.
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Brian Melvin, Feb. 13.
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415-846-9432 or
www.thejazzhouse.org

JAZZ SCHOOL — The Dynamic Faye
Carroll: Music From Then to Now,
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The Rebecca Maelson Quartet, Feb. 8,
4:30 p.m. \$20.
SoVoSo, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$18.
Taylor Elgish Trio, Feb. 15, 4:30 p.m. \$10
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See EVENTS, Page C6

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Events

FROM PAGE C5

Shellmond St., Emeryville, 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com.

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — De Rompe y Raja, Feb. 7, 8:30 p.m. \$15. "Benefit Concert for Dennis Kucinich," Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. With Gerry Tenney, Will Fudemam and Betsy Rose. \$15. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

924 GILMAN ST. — Good Clean Fun, Kill the Messenger, Paint Out the Light, Feb. 6.

Kylea, Brainoil, Iron Lung, Feb. 7. The Frisk, Midnightmare, Feb. 13. Reality Crisis, Rotary Beginners, Lepeden Totem, Deadfall, Feb. 14.

All ages. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or www.924gilman.org.

OAKLAND ARENA — Gette Midler, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Part of The "Kiss My Brains Tour." \$37.62 to \$166.67. Hegenberger Road and I-880, Oakland. 510-762-2277 or www.tickets.com.

OAKLAND BOX THEATER — "Tuesday Night Oakland Box Series," 8 p.m. Live and experimental music. \$7 to \$1,000. 1928 Telegraph Ave. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE — Erykah Badu, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. \$39.50 to \$75.50.

"Valentine's Day Love Serenade," Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Featuring The Whispers and Peabo Bryson. \$42.50 to \$75. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 925-685-TIXS, 510-625-TIXS, 415-421-TIXS or www.ticketmaster.com.

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Quetzal, Feb. 6, 9:30 p.m. \$10.

Prefixo de Verao, Feb. 7, 9 p.m. \$12. La Verdade, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. \$15 general; \$10 students.

Live Salsa Night, Wednesday, 8 p.m. \$10.

For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com.

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Jackpott, Rich McCully Band, John Blaylock, Jan. 30.

The Stacks, Flair, The Mitts, Jan. 31. George Pedersen and His Pretty Good Band, Feb. 5.

The Moore Brothers, Feb. 6. The Servants, Trouble Horse, Jerry Hanan, Feb. 7.

Davis Redford Triad, Appreciation, Feb. 12.

"My Bloody Valentine Bash," Feb. 13. Featuring I Will Kill You Fcker, Ned, Ramona The Pest, She Mob, The Shut-Ins, The Slow Poisoners, Feb. 13.

The Solution, Mushroom, Feb. 14. \$5. For ages 21. Sunday and Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

YOSHIS — "The 10th Annual McCoy Tyner Two-Week Residency," through Feb. 8. With Pharoah Sanders, Ravi Coltrane, Charnett Moffett and Eric Harland. \$20 to \$28.

El Cerrito High School Jazz Band, Feb. 9. \$10.

The Tony Williams Project, Feb. 10 through Feb. 15. \$12 to \$26. Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200, www.yoshis.com or www.ticketweb.com.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

CAL PERFORMANCES — Hilary Hahn, violin, Feb. 8, 7 p.m. A program of works by Mozart, Bach and Bloch, with piano accompaniment by Natalie Zhu. \$32 to \$56.

Venice Baroque Orchestra, Feb. 13 and Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Featuring Andrea Mar-

con, harpsichord. Performing Handel's "Siroe" \$36 to \$56.

Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano with Sergio Cionel, piano, Feb. 15, 3 p.m. \$50 to \$250.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

FLAUTI DIVERSI — "The Italians Are Coming!" Feb. 7, 8 p.m. Baroque music in the Italian style from 18th-century London. \$15 to \$18. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. 510-527-9640.

MILLS COLLEGE — Meredith Monk, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. The composer, singer and choreographer will perform.

\$12 general; \$6 seniors. 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland. 510-430-2296 or www.mills.edu.

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA — "Beethoven's Thirds," Feb. 7 and Feb. 8. Nicholas McGegan conducting, with Melvyn Tan on fortepiano. \$29 to \$60. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 415-392-4400 or www.philharmonia.org.

ST. JOHNS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — THIRD SUNDAY AT FOUR — Davitt Moroney, Feb. 15, 4 p.m. UC Berkeley professor and organist will perform works by Louis Couperin. Donation. 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830 or http://stjohns.presbychurch.net.

DANCE

ASHKENAZ — Vivian e Prexido de Verao with Aquarela Brazilian Dance Ensemble. Feb. 6, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Groundation, Feb. 7, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Midnite, Feb. 10 and Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m. \$17 to \$20.

AFRO-MUZIKA, Feb. 14, 9:30 p.m. \$13. 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

CAL PERFORMANCES — Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Feb. 6 and Feb. 7, 8 p.m. A unique program of works each night including "Biped" by Gavin Bryars on Friday, and "Inter-scape" by John Cage on Saturday.

\$26 to \$46. Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

DANCEWITHME EVENTS — "Valentine's Dance," Feb. 14, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. A night of dancing to live music by the Moodswing Orchestra. There will be dance lessons, refreshments, a no-host bar, and a raffle for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Dress is semi-formal. Singles and couples welcome. \$20 to \$25. Lake Merritt Dance Center Grand Ballroom, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-523-5587 or www.dancewithme.info.

DIVIDANCE PRODUCTIONS — "The Ancient Art of Belly Dance: Liberating the Diva Within," Feb. 15, 8 p.m. A belly dancing performance featuring Nanna Candelaria, Zar, Alyne and Asata Iman and the Raks al Tasneem Troupe. \$10. Oakland Box Theater, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-237-2152 or www.asata.net.

MUSIC SOURCES — "Renaissance Dance Party," Feb. 8, 5 p.m. A dance lesson with music from Elizabethan times. \$18 general; \$15 students and seniors. 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. 510-528-1685.

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Live Salsa, Wednesday, 8 p.m. A live salsa band plays, and there are beginning and intermediate lessons.

\$10 general; \$5 students. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com.

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Cell," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

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31 Aquarium fish
32 Guanabara Bay locale
33 Expression of gratitude, briefly
34 Internet market
35 Tropical pitcher plants and such
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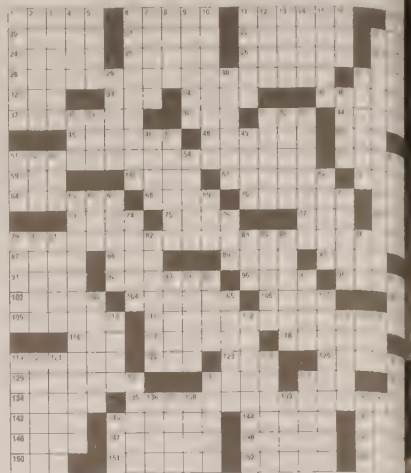
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61 Attorney Belli
63 Sherpa
64 One-spot
68 Level
70 Not level
72 Haydn string composition
73 "It a Pity" (1970 song)
75 Foam toy brand
77 de toilette
78 "It's real!"
79 Snake's favorite movie of 1981?
87 Frenziedly
88 Oh Wah— (game lile)
90 Gunne Gear company
91 The Beatles' Madonna, e.g.
92 Nebraska's Cornhusker, e.g.
96 Linesman, maybe?
98 Ancient Arabian
102 Sheik's flock
104 Ark contents
106 Measure
108 1936 Cong. measure
109 Rhapsody (1996 biopic)
111 Frog's favorite movie of 1944?
116 Blob from the blue?
117 I like—Across and
118 View from Vesuvius
119 Sister of Eva
122 Green-lights
123 Schook
125 More harsh

DOWN

129 Desiring
131 Superman's mother
132 President's initials
133 PC application suffix
134 Hamlet and Gertrude
135 Crow's favorite movie of 1957?
142 Tail runners
143 Romeo and Juliet's home
144 Ante
145 "I swear!"
146 Cartoon art
147 Only now and then
148 Where sells go
149 Grand
150 Organ repair sites: Abbr.
151 Title city of a Forsyth thriller
152 Make catty remarks
153 They're tender

DOWN

15 Turned up
16 An ID
17 Kitty teaser
18 The Three Stooges had many
19 Rest
23 Sheep's favorite movie of 1991?
29 It's a knockout
30 Little Red Book ideology
31 Metag
36 Princess on the small screen
38 Big nuts in check processing
39 French vineyard
41 Popular Russian vodka, familiarly
42 Actor Villachaz
43 One may be secret
46 Cuntors' dogs
47 Modern music genre
49 Mark consisting of a series of dots
51 Kind of team
52 Shop out
53 19th-century samurai home
54 Perry White, e.g.
56 Worse
57 Cutting down, after
58 Actress Tea
62 Larry of the Black Arts Theater, and others
63 Box's favorite movie of 1983?
65 Clock id.
67 Colossal, in Colende
69 Actor with a notawk
71 Some ranchers



74 "My ..."
76 I can oversee:
79 Judaism: kosher to
80 Fine Japanese porcelain
81 They're found in
82 "Decide already!"
83 date: Abbr.
84 Fast sound: Var.
85 Early afternoon time
86 Tour grp.
87 Chisel
88 Spring locale
89 "What's ...?"
90 Trillion: Prefix
91 N.Y.C. line
100 Name precursor
101 Corn order
103 Equilibrium
105 Lack equilibrium
107 Nobody
110 Wing to-wing measure
112 Reactionaries of 1917
113 Farm sound
114 Drink, informally
115 British verb ending
119 Louisiana music
120 Tailoring machine
121 Causis
124 Old blood and guts
126 More authentic

7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

OUTDOORS

OAKLAND ZOO — SPECIAL EVENTS — "Critter Crafts," Feb. 8 through Feb. 22. A three-class series of animal art projects for children ages 3 to 5 and their parents. Learn about a different animal each week and take home a corresponding craft. Pre-registration required. Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to noon. 510-632-9525, ext. 142.

"Animal Amore! Valentine's Day Tour," Feb. 14, 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Special walking tours will present steamy facts about animal courting and mating habits, gestational periods and care of young. Not recommended for children under age 12. Free with regular zoo admission but reservations required. 510-632-9525, ext. 142.

\$8.50 general; \$5 seniors and children ages 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$4 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Gull Links Road, exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org.

REI BERKELEY — A series of lectures on hikes and outdoor equipment.

"Hiking the 60-Mile Diablo Grand Loop: A Trail in Progress," Jan. 20. Seth Adams will present slides and talk about backpacking opportunities in Contra Costa County.

Events are free and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140.

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — NATURE AREA — "Kids Garden Club," Feb. 7, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build a cob greenhouse for the winter season. Registration required. 510-525-2233. \$3.

"Botanic Garden Foray," Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to noon. Search for slinkpods and other early bloomers in the native plant oasis.

"Valentine's Day Card Workshop," Feb. 8, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Make a traditional

card or design your own and learn about the cultural history of Valentine's Day. \$5 to \$7.

"Sushi for the More Adventurous," Feb. 14, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn about nature's bounty and taste gifts from the sea, especially more exotic types. For ages 8 and older. Children ages 8 to 10 must be accompanied by adult. Registration required. 510-525-2233. \$35 to \$39 general; \$30 to \$34 seniors; \$20 to \$22 children ages 8 to 10.

"Who Eats Who? Owl Pellet Mystery Party," Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn about the meals of owls and go home with a skeleton. \$4.

"Early Bloomers," Feb. 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admire the early blooming plants including milkmaids and leatherwood and learn their natural history.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN — Guided decent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day: most Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Free unless noted otherwise. Entrances off Wildcat Canyon Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. 510-525-2233 or www.ebparks.org.

UC BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDEN — ongoing. The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants.

TOURS — Botanical Garden Tours, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Cen-

ter for a free decent tour "Sick Plant Clinic," first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to noon. UC plant pathology and entomology experts will diagnose what ails plants. Free \$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children ages 3 to 18; free on Thursday. Through Memorial Day; daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed the first Tuesday of every month for maintenance. Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. 510-643-2755 or http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

EXHIBITS

ALBATROSS PUB — Michelle Manning, through March 31. Pastels by the Berkeley artist. Free. Sunday through Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.; Wednesday through Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or www.albatrosspub.com

ARDENCY GALLERY — Constance Terrell, open-ended. Fabric arts by the artist. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 255 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-836-0831.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CO-OPERATIVE GALLERY — "Light My Fire," through Feb. 21. Glass works by 10 Bay Area artists. Free. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527 or www.acogallery.com

BERKELEY ART CENTER

BAC Members' Show, Feb. 14. An exhibit of works by dozens of artists from the Bay beyond. Free. Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Live Park, 1275 Walnut St. Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or www.berkeleyartcenter.org

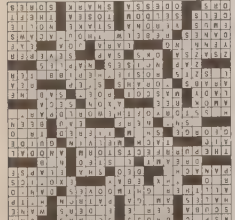
CRAFT AND CULTURAL ART GALLERY — "Historical Berkeley through March 5. A celebration of Black History including issues of Harper's from the late 19th century, including the contributions of African Americans during the Civil War and reflecting the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Reception, Feb. 19, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Following the reception, gwt Samuel Fredericks will give a station.

Free. Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. State of California Office Building, 1515 Clay St., Oakland. 510-622-8190 or www.oaklandarts.org

EAST BAY WOMEN ARTISTS — "spread," through March 28. of paintings, mixed media, photography and earthscapes by visual artists.

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Lord of the rink: Russell scores with 'Miracle'

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

The glorious sight of the underdog 1980 American Olympic hockey team beating the Soviet Union at Lake Placid is one of the sweetest moments of our collective cultural history. It was pure joy. When Sports Illustrated named it the single greatest sports moment of the 20th century, they knew what they were talking about.

Thanks to Disney's "Miracle," we get to revisit that moment, or in the case of younger generations, discover it for the first time. The story has been told before, in a forgettable 1981 made-for-TV movie called "Miracle on Ice," which starred Karl Malden as coach Herb Brooks, and in HBO's 2001 documentary "Do You Believe in Miracles: The Story of the 1980 U.S. Hockey Team." But "Miracle" is the first time the team's victory has been portrayed on the big screen, and it's a fitting celebration of hockey, youth and the dedication and spirit of Brooks.

Kurt Russell stars as Brooks, and the movie is sculpted around his character, a tough taskmaster who led these young men (average age: 21) to victory after a seven-month campaign to mold them into a team. It's a great part for the perennially underappreciated Russell, the kind of role that should make directors and casting agents reevaluate the former Disney teen star just as "The Rookie" gave a boost to Dennis Quaid. Russell gives an assured, intelligent performance that anchors the film.

With the exception of Eddie Cahill, who played Rachel's young boyfriend on "Friends" a few seasons ago and scored the starring role of goalie Jim Craig, team members are portrayed by real hockey players with little or no acting experience. One of them, Billy Schneider, is playing his father, Buzz Schneider. They have authentic regional accents and can actually skate. They've also been given dialogue that sounds true: The minute I heard one of them greet Craig in the locker room with "What's up, you sieve?" I knew screenwriter Eric Guggenheim had a feel for hockey players.

The film opens with a montage of historical events from the



ICE, ICE BABY: Kurt Russell leads the way as Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks in "Miracle."

1970s, all of them reflecting a general sense of an America down on its luck. The Watergate scandal, the hostage crisis, the gas shortages, the constant threat of trouble with the Soviet Union, all dreary pieces of history that show how much we needed a collective pick-me-up. Initially, I found this montage off-putting and unnecessary; did we really need this primer? Did this mean the movie was going to beat the patriotic drum until I wanted to scream? At the age of 15, my reasons for going nuts for the American hockey team had nothing to do with a national malaise. I loved hockey and I thought Jim Craig was the cat's meow — it didn't go much deeper than that.

But on reflection, the montage makes sense. Director Gavin O'Connor ("Tumbleweeds") had to set the stage. The vast majority of the moviegoing crowd skews a lot younger than me, and anyone born after 1974 is unlikely

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Miracle"

■ **STARRING:** Kurt Russell, Patricia Clarkson, Noah Emmerich, Eddie Cahill, Patrick O'Brien Demsey

■ **RATING:** PG (language and some rough sports action)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 16 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** B+

to remember anything from that time. Moreover, O'Connor and Guggenheim don't allow the politics of the era to interfere with the hockey.

While it's true that audiences around the country were likely primed for a symbolic victory over the Soviet Union, in "Miracle," the boys don't sit around the locker room talking about the Cold War. Given our current po-

litical climate — say anything slightly critical of our country and get a decidedly undemocratic spanking from all those "patriots" out there — one might have expected a cheery all-American establishment like Disney to shovel some jingoistic garbage into these players' mouths. That doesn't happen. They talk, as they probably did in real life, about how the Soviets were the best, and everyone wants to beat the best.

But because this is Disney, there is a more than liberal dose of loud sentimental music mucking up the works, telling us when our hearts should be swelling with pride and our eyes filling with tears. It's unfortunate that the filmmakers didn't have enough confidence in the drama inherent in the story they were telling to avoid this easy manipulation. "The Rookie" had the same problem.

The movie also runs on the long side. It takes its time,

nearly 90 minutes, just to get to Lake Placid. There's a lot of trite, busy husband/neglected wife interplay between Russell and the talented Patricia Clarkson, who plays Brooks' wife, Patti, that slows down the action. But that last half hour is a thrill ride, lots of fast, exciting action and a sense of mounting suspense (even though we know the Soviets are going to lose). By the time Mike Eruzione (Patrick O'Brien Demsey) puts that winning goal in the net, I found myself punching the air, just as I had at 15.

A sad note: The real Brooks, who served as an adviser on the film and helped Russell flesh out his character, died in a car accident last August. He never saw the finished film. But as a coda that runs just before the credits reassures us, he lived it.

Reach Mary F. Pols at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cctimes.com.



Flamenco, Wine And Roses

CAFE DE LA PAZ, 1600 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley, presents "Flamenco, Wine & Roses, two nights of romance for valentines," on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13 and 14. For one price, the evening includes music and dance of the Spanish Gypsies as presented by Caminos Flamencos and Emmy Award-winning choreographer, Yaelisa (above); a four-course prix fixe dinner; candlelight and roses with complimentary rose for the ladies. Shows will be at 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 13, and 5, 6, 8 and 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 14. For tickets or reservations 510-843-0662 or www.cafedelapaz.net.

Laura Abrams, 510-642-0212 or e-mail apollo@calperis.berkeley.edu.

■ **Katie's Dance Company** — Seeking male dancers, ages 11-21, to perform in ongoing professional shows in the Bay Area. Dance experience required. Dancers may enroll in training classes, which offer opportunities to fill dance company openings. 10311 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Appointments: Katie, 510-524-1310 or 925-229-2695.

■ **Piedmont Children's Choir** — 9:30 a.m.-noon Saturday. For children 7-10. Children are asked to sing a simple song, such as "Happy Birthday." Rehearsals are held weekly after school in Oakland and Piedmont. 510-547-4441, Ext. 2.

use of the house band is required, musical charts or sheet music and a professional quality tape must be received no less than two weeks in advance of the show date. From the audition process, 10-12 acts will be chosen to compete at the Showtime at the Apollo on Tour performance 8 p.m. May 8, Zellerbach Hall. The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, two American Airlines plane tickets to New York and the opportunity to compete live on the world-famous Apollo Theatre stage in Harlem. Auditions will be scheduled in two-hour time blocks on March 6. Auditioners are encouraged to sign up in advance; walk-up auditioners will be accepted only on a "time-permitting" basis.

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, February 6, 2004



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Badly done sex fills television

IT'S NOT SO much the increasing volume of sex on TV these days. It's the way it's usually portrayed.

You may have seen the story recently about the Chinese government banning "Friends." "I had thought the show focused on friendship," said China's disappointed top TV exec. But friendship, despite the hit NBC series' title, has always been besides the point on the dreadful "Friends" — which mercifully will soon end: The NBC comedy has always been, in essence, a nonstop sex joke. And please, spare us all the tearful "Friends" farewell tributes in May.

Another network series that appears to be scripted by 14-year-old males, ABC's "Less Than Perfect," devoted an entire episode recently to one tasteless joke after another about someone having sex with — gasp! — a 70-year-old woman.

And earlier this season, Fox tried its own series about a porn-industry family. But "Skin" lasted only three episodes. Not enough skin, apparently. Cable, of course, can show plenty of skin — and it does in the deplorable "Family Business," whose first season is now out on DVD.

In a business as obsessed with sex as TV is these days, it's no surprise cable execs would try to turn a real-life porn king and his family into the latest Ozzie and Harriet. As if attempting the same thing with the family of an addled drug abuser, Ozzie Osbourne, weren't bad enough.

We're referring to a bit of tawdriness called "Family Business," a late-night series just back for its second season on Friday nights at 11 on pay-cable's Showtime.

No sooner was the ink dry on Adam Glasser's plea agreement with prosecutors — the first time pornography charges had been filed against anyone in L.A. since 1993 — than some programming genius at Showtime decided Glasser's outwardly boyish charm might make him a good TV series star. Showtime says "Family Business" is about Glasser and his alter ego Seymour Butts' "average family" trying to make it in the adult entertainment industry.

All that's missing is Glasser with a pipe and a cardigan sweater — instead of the video camera he totes around shooting adult films like "Tampa Tushyfest" (the one that got him busted).

The series also features Adam's real-life older cousin Stevie. The profanity-spewing Stevie's supposed to be "gruff but lovable," but he's neither — he's vulgar and astringent. Glasser even uses his annoying mother, who works in his adult-film office, in "Business."

Shame is in short supply on TV these days, you've probably noticed. "Family Business" is basically a peep show with production values.

When considering TV's dismaying, adolescent treatment of sex these days, two words quickly spring to mind: Forced sterilization.

AT THE OTHER extreme, I got this e-mail about classy KRON-TV weekend anchor Catherine Heenan from one of her co-workers:

"Bill: I love working with Catherine Heenan on weekends. I was again delighted to see her on your list of what's best about broadcasting. In the past year my admiration for her has only grown. If everyone in the business were as wonderful as she is, life would be heaven on Earth. And every producer at KRON feels that way about her, too. She is the one person there about whom I've never heard a discouraging word. 'Angel' and 'goddess' are the two words I most often hear in connection with Catherine.

"To give you one example of what I mean, if she's dashing out to the store, she asks everyone within earshot if she can pick up anything for them — even the security guard."

Reach Bill Mann at News-mann@sonic.net.



CRAZY QUILT series by Pizzichillo & Gordon will be part of the "Light My Fire" exhibition that runs through Feb. 21.

CONTRIBUTED

ACCI glass show clearly creative

By **Brian Kluepfel**
CORRESPONDENT

BERKELEY — Berkeley used to be such a, well, cooperative place. Although the late, great Berkeley Co-op breathed its last in 1988, some enterprises still maintain the collective spirit: Missing Link Bicycle, The Cheese Board, the Juice Bar, and Arts and Crafts Cooperative Inc. (ACCI), the oldest artists' cooperative west of the Mississippi (and the Pecos, for that matter).

Incorporated in 1959 and in its current location since 1960, ACCI has been home to more than 3,000 California artist/members over the years. Upon being selected by a jury process — each discipline has its own committee, i.e. painters select fellow painters — artists pay an annual fee and do 20

hours' volunteer time. For that, they get a sense of community and another precious commodity — wall space.

Although the process whereby members' works are put on display is vigorously debated, 102 people are still a part of ACCI, a testament to its viability in its fifth decade. The gallery keeps half the proceeds of an artist's sales, and the members share collectively in ACCI's profits.

Hundreds of art objects fill ACCI's two-room gallery on Shattuck Avenue: oil and acrylic paintings, jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, and even clothing. This month a dedicated space pays tribute to a number of Oakland and Berkeley blown-glass artists, including Melodie Beylik, Chuck Vannatta, Holly Wallace, and Michael Sosin. (Beylik, Wallace and Sosin are collective members, while the others pay an additional fee as non-members).

Sosin, who along with Beylik works out of the well-used Sawtooth Building in West Berkeley, has always been obsessed with the medium. "I love the glass-blowing process, and it is not just because it is hot, dirty work, that somebody has to do," he says. "There is nothing quite as exciting as shaping and forming this hot material — a material that you can never actually touch; and yet, there is such a tender and intimate relationship with (it)."

Wallace emphasizes the form and function of her glass works, which she's been creating for nearly 30 years. "The pieces are created to not only be enjoyed visually but also to be functional pieces of art," she says. "Vases are created to hold



A RED and yellow vessel by Holly Wallace.

bouquets of flowers and lamps are intended to enlighten the decor with color and handmade form." She calls her work a "dance with fire and gravity, glass and inspiration, technical skill and happy accidents," and looks to natural colors found in gardens and wildlife.

Perusing the collection of greeting cards in the front of the gallery, one finds interesting cityscapes of Berkeley by longtime

ACCI member John Kenyon, as well as pointillist, reflective nature scenes by New Camaldoli Hermitage (Big Sur) monk Father Arthur Poulin. The back garden is a metal menagerie, populated by sculptures of frogs, whales, owls, herons and fish.

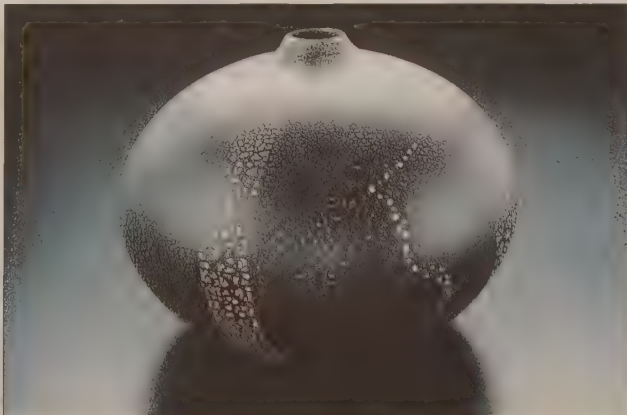
ACCI board President Kirk McCarthy hopes to restore some of the community-based ties the collective once had with its neighbors. The building, put up in 1933 as a French laundry in partnership with the still-standing French Hotel, was spared the bulldozers last year when a bank loan enabled earthquake retrofitting. Among recent community outreach efforts was a 2003 children's show, brought together by collective member Olga Segal, who teaches in the nearby Youth Arts Studio (and also works part-time at ACCI).

"We're trying to expand it to be more connected in terms of neighborhood ... exposing to people who haven't been exposed to it before," says McCarthy, whose own specialty is working in metal. Some of his shiny titanium clocks adorn the gallery walls.

Echoing what member Ellen Russell told me, McCarthy said, "I love the sense of community that ACCI offers."

He said it gives him a "connection with history, and with arts and ... hopefully, a hearkening back to handmade, locally-made crafts." So buy a bialy at the Cheese Board, sip a smoothie at the Juice Bar, and when you're done, gander at the glass at ACCI. It's a Berkeley thing, you see.

Reach Brian Kluepfel at bklupepfel@hotmail.com.



DAVID HERING created this black vase with silver foil.



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

Play explores intraracial

LONG BEFORE "American" repackaged "black," which planted "Negro," which meant mispronunciation of the epithetical N-word "yellow" was a disparaging term for a light-skinned person.

That explains the theme of "Yellowman," Orlandersmith, on the Repertory Theatre's Stage through Marjorie, searing look at of skin color — not, in case, white versus black, the far more hidden divide of darker black lighter black.

Alma, played by Henry, is a dark-skinned woman. Eugene, played by Clark Jackson, is a light-skinned black man. They've been friends since their Carolina childhood, together, grew up, went to college, got together, friendship deepened, doomed romance.

That span of years fully played by these actors, particularly as they adapt their adult voices and hurts of childhood. They also step into the shoes of their parents' friends — most often encounters. The N-word like body blows in the sive, yet often lyrical, ration of internal African racism.

Making their Repertory Henry and Jackson's only actors in this 90-minute uninterrupted work, story-telling than plot in the conventional, directed by Les Waters, Rep's associate artistic director.

Symbolically, the actors are seated apart on straight chairs on the thrust stage. Dark-skinned Alma wears a black blouse and white shirt and tan pants. Light-skinned Eugene wears a white shirt and tan pants. The stage floor is a subtle of varicolored painted dark to light as is the which they play their

"Yellowman" is not a note play about a halcyon color line. Alma Eugene's nuanced performances explore the levels of other influence, holism, parental abuse, personal "drives," the "place" in upbringing, better-off (Eugene), city limits, the poorer darker (Alma) are, in sense, "beyond the

There is an inevitability about the bleakness, rigorously honest, hard to take at times, uplifted by the sheer talents involved, staging and bringing enormously stirring experience.

For information on times and prices, call 2949 or toll-free at 800-711-1111.

ON THE OTHER

Star-crossed love played for laughs as pathos. Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," and Lafayette's Town Hall Company opens a version of the Bard's of mistaken identity, dressing and disguise John Butterfield is

How "different" be a bit racy, with local truths and Sir's antics set — not in a national European context. (Stop turning, William, turning the grave man.) Plays at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 29.

Town Hall Theatre School St. (at Montgomery) Lafayette. Ticket prices between \$17 and \$25; admission; \$15-\$20 depending on dates; manes for youths under are \$12. Call 262-2768.

Reach Jack Tucker at jtucker@octimes.com 262-2768.

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Advertising supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, February 6, 2004

Section D

ARV VOSS
WHEELING TODAY

adin', ridin'
rhythmic
bike riders

MOTOR MATTERS
Probably got the ridin' part
headline, but what do readin'
rhythmic have to do with mo-
torcycles, you might wonder. Well,
if you're reading this col-
umn, you're not in a coma from fall-
ing off a helmet when you fell
off a cycle.

For the math, we'll let you
figure out your own equations by eval-
uating motorcycle-riding equipment.
You may not have read a
column on selecting the
vehicle that's right for you, but
after — if you plan to ride a
motorcycle, or even if
you're riding for years, there
are very important issues to
consider yourself with.

To achieve maximum enjoyment
riding a bike (any kind of bike),
you need to eliminate the "worry fac-
tor." Choosing the right
gear won't prevent personal
injury in a mishap, but "suiting up"
properly in mind can go a long
way in minimizing the pain and
discomfort that may result from an acci-

dent. One reason could be that the
overall appearance is easy on the
eyes. My tester, the XLT Sport
model, has smooth, simple body
panels with running boards that
make entry easy.

Also, the polished 16-inch steel
wheels give it great eye appeal and
could attract buyers, which could
account for the outstanding sales

WHEELING, Page D3



THE 2004 VERSION of the best-selling Ford Explorer comes with two engine choices — a 239-horsepower V8 or a 210-horsepower V6 with four-wheel drive for true off-road capabilities. This SUV also has high safety crash test ratings.

Ford Explorer appeals to many for various reasons

MOTOR MATTERS
With all the sport utility vehicles
on the market, why has the Ford
Explorer been the best-selling SUV
for the past 12 years? Here's my
explanation.

One reason could be that the
overall appearance is easy on the
eyes. My tester, the XLT Sport
model, has smooth, simple body
panels with running boards that
make entry easy.

Also, the polished 16-inch steel
wheels give it great eye appeal and
could attract buyers, which could
account for the outstanding sales

record. The spacious interior has the
inviting look of comfort. Those who
open the doors on the Eddie Bauer
or Limited models will see second-
row bucket seats with a center con-
sole.

For those who don't require
seven seats, the comfort of the center
seats could be a lure.

Or, another factor: The third-row
seats have plenty of headroom and
legroom. In the basic models, the
second-row seat has a 40/20/40
split back, allowing for hauling of
odd-size cargo

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

If the third-row seats aren't re-
quired, they can be easily folded
down, leaving a large flat floor for
storage of cargo.

Although many SUVs have a
roof rack, the running boards on
the Explorer made it convenient to
lift and tie down articles on the rack.
Thoughtful features like this one
could also nail down sales

Another incentive to buy the Ex-
plorer is the choice of powertrains.
My tester had a V8 engine that pro-
duced 239 horsepower, compared
to the V6 engine that produces 210
hp.

These engines provide a towing
capacity of either 7,000 or 5,380
pounds on the 4WD models.

Those Explorers equipped with
four-wheel drive are genuine off-
road vehicles, yet the ride over
rugged roads is comparatively gen-
tle due to its independent rear sus-
pension.

On paved roads, the ride is very

comfortable and reasonably quiet.
Ride comfort is definitely a selling
point.

One aspect that everyone can
find comforting is knowing how well
the Explorer rates with safety fea-
tures. In crash tests, the 2002 Ex-
plorer received a four-star rating for
the driver and five-star rating for the
front seat passenger.

Also, the Insurance Institute
named the Explorer as the "Best
Pick" in 40-mph offset frontal crash
tests.

See KEANE Page D2

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All vehicles subject to prior sale. Ad expires 7 days from date of issue.

Tall 1931 V16 Cadillac sports big headlamps, long hood and a rumble seat

MOTOR MATTERS

Cadillac Motor Car Co. President Lawrence P. Fisher in 1929 announced the most fabulous Cadillac to that time, the 1930 V16 series 452. Cadillac produced a variety of models propelled by V16 engines for 11 years, through the 1940 model year.

One of those early V16 Cadillacs was a sporty 1931 Detroit-built model: An 18-foot-long convertible coupe fitted out with a rumble seat and not one, but two, golf bag doors — one on each side.

The entire package was supported by a 148-inch wheelbase. It had a base price of about \$6,900.

From day one, in 1931, that particular Cadillac evidently received kid glove treatment. Jim George first saw the Cadillac in the summer of 1997 when it was put up for sale right after it had undergone a complete restoration in St. Louis.

George was taken by the beauty of the all-black Cadillac; however, it was already sold by then. "It was neat looking with the top up or down," he says.

Almost five years later George saw a list of antique cars to be sold at the annual Meadowbrook auction in August 2002 and there, amazingly, was the black 1931 Cadillac.

"I'm like a hound on the scent of an animal," George says. "There it was, the same car that I had admired earlier."

George made arrangements to ensure that he and his wife, Brenda, would be in attendance at the Meadowbrook auction in Rochester, Mich., on Aug. 3, 2002. As the gleaming black 5,600-pound Cadillac crossed the block, most of the bidders in attendance pulled out their cellphones in order to be in contact with the monied principals they were representing.

George is convinced that he had an edge because he was doing his own bidding. Regardless, after less than a minute of frantic high-stakes bidding, the car was his.

George quickly insured the 6-foot, 1-inch-tall Cadillac rumble seat convertible and arranged to have it trucked in an enclosed van to his home in Haymarket, Va. The history of the car is somewhat elusive, but George has learned that it was sold new in Minneapolis in April 1931.

"It was there just in time for warm weather," George concludes.

From there, the well-traveled car spent time in Florida and later California before being auctioned in Michigan and trucked to Virginia. Records show that the Cadillac was brown when it left the factory. The leather upholstery matches the light-gray pinstriping.



SECOND OPPORTUNITY to buy proved successful for owner of this 1931 V16 Cadillac built in Detroit. The convertible is 18 feet long with a rumble seat and two golf bag doors.

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

Access to the rumble seat is via the three steps up the right rear fender. Rumble seat accommodations are surprisingly posh, including padded arm rests and an unseen courtesy light beneath the cowl that illuminates the compartment to eliminate any surprises in the dark.

On the valances above both running boards are courtesy lights. Hidden behind the right valance is the battery. Behind the left valance is a compartment for tools.

Both side-mounted 7.50x19-inch spare tires are shrouded in black material matching the convertible top. All six wheels have 54 spokes.

The front of the Cadillac is dominated by the headlights, each with a 13-inch-diameter lens. Between the headlights on a horizontal bar in front of the gravel guard

on the radiator is the emblem that bestows bragging rights on the owner.

The message on the emblem simply says: "V16." Behind the massive radiator is the 452-cubic-inch V16 engine under the long engine hood with five ventilating doors on each side.

The slanted windshield and curved carriage sill above the running board are indications that this V16 was built in Detroit. Pennsylvania-built models had flat sills and perpendicular windshields.

The "suicide" doors swing to the back on three hinges. In the cockpit is a four-spoke steering wheel and on the dashboard is a speedometer that tops out at 120 miles per hour. "There's a bit of optimism there," George observes.

For your car to become the subject of the Classic Classics column, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to: Vern Parker, 2221 Abbottsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181. Only photos of good quality will be considered.

Keane

FROM PAGE D2

This vehicle has steel beams in the doors to prevent intrusion in side-impact. It also has side airbag systems and rollover protection. In addition, anti-lock brakes are standard equipment. Those points could swing a deal.

In some SUVs, the spare tire is in the rear cargo area, or under the floor, which takes up valuable storage space. In the Explorer, the spare is under the rear floor — and it isn't too difficult to access. Having extra storage space is a plus.

What makes this report confusing is that there are numerous models from which to choose. The Ford people explained that for 2004, there is an XLS, XLT, XLT Premium and Adrenalin.

FORD EXPLORER XLT

Vehicle Type	Seven-passenger, four-door 4WD sport utility
Suggested Retail	
Price as Tested	
Engine Type	SOHC16-valve, 4.6-liter V8
Horsepower	239 at 4,000 rpm
Torque	282 at 2,600 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Wheelbase	111.4 inches
Height	66.9 inches
Curb Weight	4,480 lbs.
Fuel Capacity	22.8 gal.
Mileage	City/highway

Car care tips to ensure a longer driving life

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q I just bought a new Toyota Camry and hope to make it last for the remainder of my driving days (15-plus years).

In the past I've mostly driven second-hand cars or those that filled a short-term need such as a minivan.

I really want to pamper this baby, as she's the best car I've ever owned. I've been told a Toyota will run virtually forever if you take good care of it.

Could you please share any suggestions that will help me?

Beth Petersen, Santa Clara, Calif.

A Nothing makes an auto enthusiast smile more than the thought of a well-maintained vehicle, Beth. It's a great time to talk about how you can make your new car and truck last (almost) forever.

Going the extra distance on care and maintenance will provide a more enjoyable ownership experience, greater durability and reliability, and higher resale value.

Here's my take on how to give your superbly engineered companion the care it deserves:

Oil changes: Newer vehicles typically specify longer oil- and filter-change intervals than their predecessors. Improved crankcase ventilation systems, higher-quality oil and the need to be competitive with other brands in maintenance costs all contribute to these longer intervals.

The most important thing to remember is that oil life depends greatly on your driving habits. If you drive the car a half hour or more (continuously) each day, oil impurities have a chance to boil away.

Frequent cold starts and short-trip city driving (only) allows a buildup of acids and sludge.

If you fall into the first category I'd consider going the full-specified distance between changes. Otherwise, it's best to obtain service each 3,000 to 5,000 miles.

What about oil additives? They might have merit, but modern motor oil performs so well that I don't believe they're necessary.

Belts and boots: Many auto engines use a rubber timing belt to drive the camshaft. It's important to renew the belt at the specified interval to avoid the chance of serious engine damage should it break.

Some engines are "free-wheelers" meaning no valve-piston collision will occur, but many are of the "interference" design.

Also, each time the vehicle is raised for service, it's a good idea to inspect the CV (constant velocity) axle boots for splits or tears. Catching a faulty boot early can save paying to replace the CV joint or axle assembly.

Other lubrication and maintenance: Personally, I cringe at the thought of the lifetime transmission fluid, fuel filters and 100,000-mile spark plugs found on a number of new vehicles.

I would flush-renew the transmission fluid at least every 60,000 miles or if it appears dark or has a burned odor.

I would do the same with the fuel filter because a restricted filter makes the fuel pump work harder, shortening its life.

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

Platinum-tipped spark plugs will no doubt fire reliably for their specified life, but they might be difficult to remove after being in place for close to a decade.

Shake, rattle and roll: Watch for tire-wheel vibration (usually because of improper balance) as a shaking wheel accelerates front suspension and steering wear.

If the engine should ever sputter or run poorly, seek service promptly to avoid catalytic converter damage.

Rattles are usually harmless, but they should be checked nonetheless. Squealing brakes (when applied) are usually the result of a harmless vibration, but a deeper grinding noise means you've worn through the friction material and are destroying the brake rotors or drums.

Odors from under the hood are usually caused by fluid leakage. Have them checked before they cause trouble.

A smelly-sock odor from the A-C vents is because of fungus build-up. Try using the outside-air setting more frequently.

Paint and interior: A routine application of quality wax will equal or exceed any treatment the dealer might offer. I would do so at least once every six months to protect the paint from environmental attack.

Seek shade when parking to reduce the toll UV light takes on paint, upholstery and rubber parts.

Keeping the upholstery clean, by carefully vacuuming seams and folds, will minimize grit-friction wear and splitting. The use of over-the-counter stain-guard products and vinyl protectants also will equal dealer-applied treatments.

Loving treatment: Forgive me if I preach excessively, but cold starts are a terrible thing for your powertrain and the environment. Try to consolidate trips.

Also, never let the engine become overheated. This means servicing the cooling system and renewing belts and hoses regularly.

Q I'm considering the purchase of a new Accord or Camry and was hoping for some advice on engine choices.

What are the pros and cons of a four cylinder vs. a six?

They want quite a bit more for the six. Is it worth it?

Sandy Orland, Palo Alto, Calif.

A You're asking a male whether to get the larger or smaller engine? I'll do my best to be objective.

Four-cylinder engines are a model of simplicity — compact and easy to service. They also tend to be of smaller displacement, 2.5 liters or less, which aids fuel economy but limits power somewhat.

Unless equipped with balance shafts or sophisticated engine mounts, larger four-cylinder engines can become a bit choppy in operation. A four-cylinder engine would be a great choice for a value-conscious

person whose driving habits don't require substantial power (few passengers, around-town driving).

Most six-cylinder engines arrange their cylinders in a V configuration, making the engine substantially greater in width. This can really fill up an engine bay, making some service jobs more difficult.

With a greater number of cylinders comes improved operational smoothness and larger displacement — up to about 3.5 liters. This allows greater power output, but reduced fuel economy.

The silky smoothness of a six and the more authoritative sound of its exhaust say better than words that this is the premium version of the car.

A six-cylinder engine would be best for a person who loads the vehicle, drives in hilly terrain or is luxury-oriented. It also will command greater resale value at trade-in time.

Choosing between the two will require more than just facts and figures. You'll need to drive both versions of the car noting idle quality and acceleration ability.

No place will the difference be more apparent than merging onto the freeway. From a steady speed of 40 miles per hour, try flooring the accelerator.

This is a great test of get-the-job-done engine torque and transmission coordination. Does the car inspire merging confidence?

Also take note of the sound and feel of the engine. Is it shrill or raspy, or does it have a deep and commanding voice? This single test would do it for me.

Q Just in case you weren't lambasted multiple times for an answer to a question a couple of weeks ago, (and I haven't seen a retraction yet), but I believe that you recommended a gentleman put the two best tires on the rear wheels of his Honda Accord.

Most Accords are front-wheel drive, and I'm not an expert like you, but I would think the front tires should be in the best condition for FWD cars, to facilitate pulling and gripping of the road from the front.

The extreme would be bald tires in the front, with no traction to get going after a rainy-road stop. Otherwise, keep up the good work.

Rob Halstrom, San Jose, Calif.

A I don't blame you for questioning my advice on this subject as it seems to fly in the face of conventional wisdom.

Front-wheel-drive vehicles, because of their strong front/rear weight bias, are a different breed of cat from the rear-drive vehicles most of us grew up with.

For an in-depth discussion of new/used tire placement and some test results from Michelin's Laurens Proving Grounds, go to www.tirerack.com/tires/tiretech/general/installnewtires.html.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. E-mail him at under-the-hood@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190. He cannot make personal replies.

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Wraps come off: 2005 Chevrolet Corvette

MOTOR MATTERS
Finally, the wraps come off the Chevrolet Corvette. General Motors unveiled the new generation sports car at Detroit's North American International Auto Show. It will travel the auto circuit and go into production next summer.

Here are the highlights: a completely new body that bears a simple, familiar silhouette but with sleek body surfaces and improved aerodynamics; headlamps that are exposed instead of pop-up; a new, upgraded interior; an engine that produces 400 horsepower and 400 pounds-foot of torque; beefier suspensions, brakes and transmission to accommodate more power, and a more rigid chassis.

The goal is to create a Corvette that does more things well (sic) than any other performance car," said Dave Peters, chief engineer of the Corvette. The new Corvette is designed by GM's Performance Cars, which also introduced the Cadillac XLR.

The new Corvette has new features in many areas while keeping time systematically going out and destroying every notion we could find."

The new Corvette shares its basic architecture, and some parts, with the Cadillac XLR sports car introduced last summer. The two cars

MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

were developed concurrently and are built at the same Bowling Green, Ky., assembly plant.

From the start, designers and engineers agreed the Corvette needed to be a smaller, tighter package to make it saleable in Europe and to make it look and feel more agile. It is 5 inches shorter than the current one — 3 inches less in front and 2 inches less in back.

At 0.28 coefficient of drag, it is the most aerodynamic Corvette ever. Achieving its aerodynamics was no easy task, said Chief Designer Tom Peters, who heads design for GM's performance cars.

Shorter overhangs, wider tire treads and rounded surfaces worked against aerodynamics. "Those things kept me up at night," he said.

The new Corvette is immediately recognizable as an evolution, yet subtle cues hint at its lineage to Corvette classics from 1963 to 1967. For instance, the side "coves" are intended to interpret a classic Corvette design cue in a new way, as does the line above the door which is meant to resemble the cut-in-to-the-roof door of the past.

"We wanted to deliver a powerful but simple statement with the initial look, but upon closer inspection, we want people to see more sophisticated surface development and transitions from one area to another," said Peters. He likened the design to music where you kind of like a song the first time you hear it and it grows to become your favorite over time.

Peters wanted the "face" to be more expressive, achieved through the exposed headlamps and grille. He said that among the hardest decisions the team had to make was the switch from pop-up headlamps, like those on the C5, to exposed ones, first used in 1962.

The new Corvette's headlamps are fixed High-Intensity Discharge lamps for seamless integration into the hood and better lighting. Traditional door handles are gone, replaced by an electronic pad that requires the key to only be in or near the car to open the doors or start the engine with the push button.

Inside, designers attempted to create an interior with improved materials and craftsmanship. The interior design theme continues the long-time Corvette cue of a twin-cockpit layout. Storage has been increased and cupholders improved.

The Corvette offers optional features such as a DVD navigation with



MOTOR MATTERS

DESIGNERS AND ENGINEERS agreed the Corvette needed to be a smaller, tighter package to make it saleable in Europe and to make it look and feel more agile.

voice activation (say "I'm hungry" and it lists restaurants), XM Satellite Radio and GM's OnStar communications system.

A Head-Up Display projected onto the windshield can be reconfigured for everyday driving, showing such things as speed and radio settings, or a track mode, showing more detail. Optional side airbags and heated seats are available —

firsts for Corvette.

Under the Corvette's long hood is a new version of GM's small-block V8. The LS2 is a 6.0-liter that delivers an estimated 400 horsepower and 400 pounds-foot of torque. The upgraded engine is standard with a six-speed manual or an optional four-speed automatic, beefed up to handle the additional power.

An electronic system on the automatic selects the optimal gear for the given driving condition. Buyers can choose one of three suspensions. Three dynamic chassis control systems are standard — anti-lock brakes, traction control and active handling.

Convertible and high-performance Z06 versions will be unveiled later.

Return VUE Red Line to be limited edition, Jaguar XKR Portfolio limited to 200 models

MOTOR MATTERS
The Saturn VUE Red Line limited edition will be powered by a 2.8-liter V6 engine.

The \$21,960 all-wheel drive VUE can carry five passengers, or can be configured to carry 30 cubic feet of cargo. It is equipped with an advanced electric power steering system for precise steering at low speeds and confident feel at highway speeds.

The Red Line that goes into production the first quarter of 2004 will be the first in Saturn's new series of line-badged vehicles.

Shush: U.S. automakers are quietly adapting vehicles for the nation's aging drivers.

Power door handles that are easier for arthritic hands to grasp and larger font sizes and clearer gauges on dashboard gauges, the three automakers are anticipating the upcoming boom of drivers.

But they're doing it without fanfare because a young person won't hold person's car, according to National Automotive Dealers Association report.

Best repair shops: Ask your family and co-workers to recommend a reputable shop for routine repairs.

Personal recommendations from relatives and even perfect scores account for 60 percent of buying decisions, according to National Automotive Parts Association. Therefore, the same should be used to find a car-care center.

Limited edition Jaguar: The distinguished Jaguar XKR will be limited to just 200 models for 2004.

The convertible-only Portfolio will feature 20-inch BBS alloy wheels, "Detroit" wheels with titanium bolts and ultra-low, high-per-

SPARE PARTS

formance Pirelli P Zero tires.

The XKR Portfolio has heavily bolstered R Performance Recaro leather sport seats and bronzed-stained Sapele wood. The convertibles are available in two exterior colors: Coronado Blue or Jupiter Red.

Sonic Saab sales: Sales of Saab automobiles have taken off dramatically in the U.S. — the first time in 16 years. Through October, Saab reports sales of more than 40,000 vehicles — its best year-to-date sales since 1987. Saab's newfound success is attributed to the popularity of the all-new Saab 9-3 sports sedan.

Toyota's U.S. expansion: Toyota plans a 98,400 square-foot expansion of its Erlanger, Ky., plant. The facility is the site of the automaker's quality and production engineering laboratory which controls parts, components and materials testing and warranty claim analysis.

By 2006, Toyota's North American operations will have the capacity to build 1.66 million automobiles and employ 34,000 workers.

At the touch of button:

The soft-top operation on the all-new 2004 Saab 9-3 requires no manual involvement beyond pressing a button.

The roof on the \$42,500 convertible is hydraulically-powered, with automatic self-latching to the header rail, and deploys fully in just 20 seconds while the engine is running.

This is partly achieved by the convertible's tonneau, which has a unique two-step cycle, being completely raised horizontally and then



MOTOR MATTERS

SATURN'S VUE Red Line is one of the many "crossover" vehicles being introduced for 2004. Above, right, the Jaguar XKR Portfolio comes only in convertible style and is limited to just 200 models for 2004.

moved rearwards, parallel to the top of the trunk.

Better mileage: General Motors Corp. will put at least two million vehicles on the road by 2008 with new engines that incorporate technology to improve fuel economy by as much as 8 percent.

According to a report in the Detroit News, a computer in the engines senses how much power a vehicle requires and seamlessly disables or engages half or all of the cylinders without any action from the driver. This process is known as displacement on demand.

Options vary: Thirty-four percent of 50,000 respondents to a J.D. Power and Associates survey said they want side airbags.

Another survey reveals side airbags at the top of the list of 19 vehicle features respondents wanted, thus more automakers are offering side airbags as standard or optional equipment.

Yet, reported sales of optional side airbags are low.



MOTOR MATTERS

Porsche celebrates 40th anniversary with special commemorative 911

MOTOR MATTERS

In September of 1963 at the Frankfurt Motor Show, Porsche unveiled the car we know today as the 911. It was designed by Ferdinand Alexander Porsche, the eldest son of Professor Ferry Porsche.

He was instructed to make it the same dimensions as its predecessor, the Porsche 356, with a longer wheelbase, fastback rear design and really attractive look. As it turned out, it was a bit shorter, but in his words, "more Porsche-like." Using that same design philosophy, the Porsche 911 has retained its classic silhouette shape for all of its first 40 years.

The original 911 had a new six-cylinder horizontally-opposed air-cooled engine producing 130 horsepower, a far cry from current capability.

The first T-top made its debut on the 1965 Targa, and the aerodynamic ducktail spoiler was a striking feature of the 1972 911 Carrera. Turbocharging, derived from the 1974 911 Carrera RSR Turbo race car, premiered on a production vehicle with the 1975 Turbo Coupe.

Electronic all-wheel drive was developed for the Porsche 911-based 959 super car, but the first Porsche production car to be equipped with a similar electronic all-wheel drive system was the 1989 Porsche 911 Carrera 4. In 1995, a simpler yet equally effective all-wheel drive system using a viscous clutch was incorporated in the 911 Carrera 4 and 911 Turbo.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Porsche's signature model, a special commemorative edition of the 911 has been created. It has special badging, front bodywork, polished wheels, and exterior paint. This special edition is powered

DAVE VAN SICKLE
Down the Road

by a 345-horsepower version of the 3.6-liter flat-six engine and has enhanced handling features. It will be built in a limited quantity of 1963 to recognize the year of the 911's debut.

But, the big news is about the grandchildren of the original 911. The 2004 Carrera 4S Cabriolet and Turbo Cabriolet stand out as significant models on their own. The Carrera 4S Cabriolet is the first version Porsche has offered of that model and the 2004 Turbo Cabriolet is the first 911 Turbo Cabriolet since 1989.

The major appearance differences between the two models are the Turbo Cabriolet's side air intakes, which are intended to feed air to the intercoolers of the turbochargers, and its rear wing, which raises at 75 miles per hour and lowers at 50 mph.

The Carrera 4S Cabriolet features the automatically deploying rear spoiler, found on the standard Carrera Coupe and Cabriolet.

The Carrera 4S Cabriolet and Turbo Cabriolet share the same chassis, suspension and all-wheel drive system as the 911 Turbo coupe. Even though the body-shell of the 911 is quite stiff, a few modifications were needed to keep the structural integrity for the new cabriolets.

Thanks to the use of high-strength steel, and first-class engineering, the new 911 Cabriolet is about 4.5 percent torsionally stiffer than the standard 911 Cabriolet, yet is only 29 pounds heavier.

PSM, Porsche Stability Management, is standard on both new

Cabriolets, as is the all-wheel drive system. In this system, the rear wheels are driven directly, while the front wheels are connected through a viscous coupling.

All 911 Cabriolets employ two hidden supplemental safety bars as protection from rollovers. A special control unit uses butterfly and angle sensors that respond to both the angle and acceleration of the car. An additional g-force sensor detects any "lift-off."

The bars extend if the side angle of the car exceeds 51 degrees or the longitudinal angle exceeds 72 degrees, or if the car leaves the ground for more than 200 milliseconds with forces more than 0.1g.

The Carrera 4S Cabriolet is powered by the same engine found in the 911 Carrera Coupe, Cabriolet, Carrera 4S Coupe, and Carrera 4 Cabriolet. It produces 315 horsepower and moves the car from 0 to 62 mph in 5.3 seconds and to a top track speed of 174 mph.

As found in the 911 Turbo Coupe, the 911 Turbo Cabriolet's engine is derived from the Porsche GT1 racecar. Incorporating dual turbochargers, it cranks out 415 horsepower and propels the car from 0 to 62 mph in just 4.3 seconds.

Both Cabriolet models are equipped with six-speed manual transmissions as standard. Both can also be ordered with the optional five-speed Tiptronic S automatic transmission system.

So, that's the latest from Porsche: Two new additions to the famed Porsche 911 model lineup.

The Carrera 4S sells for about \$94,000 while the Turbo lists for \$128,000. They aren't exactly cheap, but most Porsche aficionados will agree — you get what you pay for.



RAISING AND LOWERING the soft top on all-new 2004 Saab 9-3 is accomplished in just 20 seconds with hydraulic power and press of a button.

MOTOR MATTERS

Wheeling

PAGE D1

Full helmets and full helmets between. Helmets come in virtually every shape with a varied level of approval, such as Department of Transportation-approved.

You ride wearing a helmet without acceptable safety approval or no helmet at all — in states, "officer friendly" can cite authority and present you with citation which will cost you money that you could have put into enjoying your ride.

The majority of sport bike riders do not add protection that a helmet provides — a wise move, particularly since they tend to ride more aggressively.

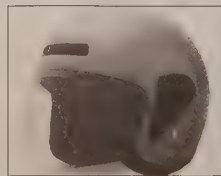
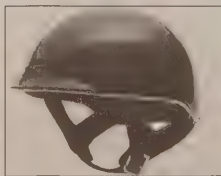
The advantages of the full face helmet include total head and face protection, with the flexibility of a pivot face shield, eliminating the need for goggles.

This means that prescription glasses or sunglasses may be worn without the ravages of wind and insects, or other airborne objects. A full helmet offers full head protection and comes with or without a pivoting shield, but leaves the lower face vulnerable should you unexpectedly leave the bike.

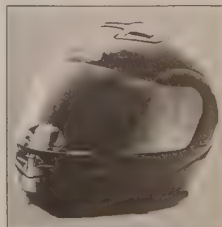
The half helmet generally comes with or without a "shorty" visor, but no full face shield. The chin strap connects to open ear flaps in most cases for better audible awareness. Eye protection is recommended — regardless of your cycle having a windshield — goggles are the best bet, and are available with prescription lenses and a variety of tints as well as clear.

The half helmet is closer to a sense of freedom, but won't save your face or ears.

Beanies offer little or no real



MOTOR MATTERS



THE VARIOUS styles of helmets, from left to right, for motorcycle riders offer minimal to good protection.

protection should you have the misfortune of going down, and most have no safety approval, although there are DOT-approved Kevlar units on the market to comply with the law where helmets are mandatory.

Gloves aren't required, but make good sense, especially in colder climates, for added comfort. Open fingered gloves provide a higher level of manual dexterity, like when fumbling for change at toll booths. Your palms and knuckles will thank you if a slide over

terra firma occurs. Jackets (leather in particular) provide protection in the event of a slide and ward off the elements as well. Long pants are definitely a good thing, and chaps are that much better for those long distance rides.

Sport bike riders often wear full riding suits made of breathable, lightweight synthetic material.

Foul weather riding gear is optional, but if you're caught in an unpredictable storm, it can make the difference between being comfort-

able or miserable.

Let's not forget proper footwear. There are no legal requirements that I'm aware of regarding footwear, but you'll want to consider non-skid sole material for putting your feet down to balance a heavy cruising or touring bike when stopping.

Covering your ankles is the consideration here.

I know if you ride a custom HOG, you probably think that helmets are for wimps, and that Beanie or Doo-rags are way cooler. Sleeveless shirts and vests also

make a fashion statement for cruiser types, along with John Lennon-style shades.

When riding, though, in terms of protection, more is always better.

This is where you need to do the math — less can mean more time incapacitated, as in "out of work," unable to ride and in pain, and that's if you're lucky. Make sure your equipment matches your riding style.

Plan ahead, ride safely, or as the Harley folks put it: "Live to Ride and Ride to Live." Protect yourself.

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need to be haute?

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Tote cuisine: beyond the bologna sandwich

BY MARIA GALLAGHER

The moves haven't begun to change, but I've already seen one I return to almost

At my workplace, the market, an enormous display bin filled with brown lunch bags, 100 to a package. That's a lot of school and office lunches waiting to be made.

With take-out and delivered food so readily available, you might think that grown-ups have stopped carrying lunches to work.

But the January 2001 issue of the American Demographics cited a

customer survey indicating that 20 percent of office workers bring home every day and bring a home meal once a

Rosemarie Detweiler, a customer service associate with Pur-

sell that at the work place.

expensive. Now her primary role is her det.

lost nearly 80 pounds since joining in the 2nd Watchers' Annual at

of the market, I've seen one I return to almost

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BROWN BAG LUNCHES

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Carry your food to a break room

or company cafeteria or outdoors.

If a park or benches are nearby,

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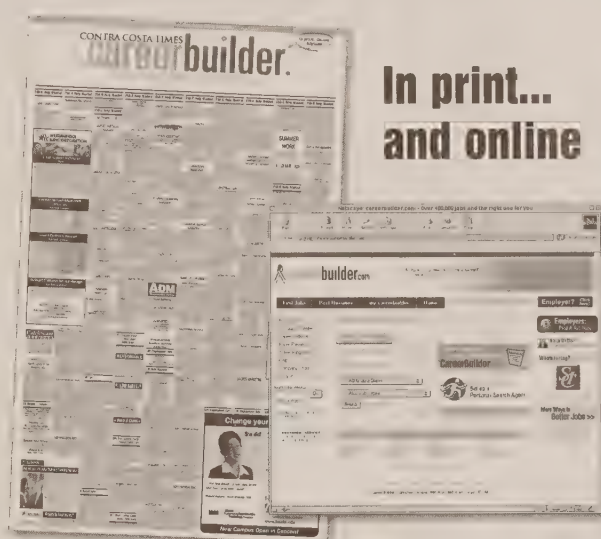
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Search Criteria	careerbuilder	Monster	HotJobs
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See why East Bay recruiters prefer
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Recruitment Team at (925) 977-8503.

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Employment

LOANS

Wholesale Loan Officer
Northern California
First Federal Bank of California is a midsize community bank based in Santa Monica, California. We are aggressively expanding our presence in the Wholesale Lending arena in the Northern California market. To accomplish this we are currently seeking ambitious and aggressive representatives who reside in Northern California to work in a satellite office environment for First Federal Bank's corporate headquarters in Santa Monica.

The right candidates will have a min one year exp. in or exposure to the real estate lending business. Extensive experience/exposure to packaging and processing of loans, overall knowledge of loan functions and the ability to apply the financial aspects of lending to areas of responsibility is required. Must be a dedicated self starter and able to work efficiently with minimal supervision.

We offer an outstanding salary and compensation package as well as superior benefits. Please send resumes to:
Email: DSMth@firstfedca.com
or fax: 310-319-5644
First Federal Bank of California

MAINTENANCE
Diablo Country Club
Golf Course Maint. P/T & P/T. 6AM-2PM. Apply in person. 925-937-4221
Web ID CC013191641

Employment

MAINTENANCE

ClubSport Valley Vista has 2 shifts avail. for maint. at our facility. Pool exp. & 5AM-1:30PM & 10:30AM-5:30PM. Opening & closing resp. Call Ball or Mickey @ 25.934.4050

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MAINTENANCE

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TEAM UP WITH THE BEST!

We're Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation, a recognized industry leader in leased industrial and construction equipment. Currently, we offer an excellent opportunity in our CONCORD branch. Duties will consist of working in the equipment rental yard, and possible maintenance and repair of equipment. Knowledge of gas and diesel machinery is a plus!

Come be on the best team in our league! We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits. If interested please contact:

HERTZ EQUIPMENT RENTAL CORP.
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Concord, CA 94520
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EOE

MAINTENANCE
Diablo Country Club
Golf Course Maint. P/T & P/T. 6AM-2PM. Apply in person. 925-937-4221
Web ID CC013191641

Employment

MAINTENANCE

ClubSport health club looking for male lockers room attendant. FREE MEMBERSHIP + discounts on services. Duties include pool maint., cleanliness of locker rm, laund dry, etc. M-F 10-6p shift avail. Will train. Apply in person at 1908 Olympic Blvd, WC

MAINTENANCE MECH.
Plant Oper. Mech. ability. conveyor belt exp. Fax resume to 714-115-9082 or resumes@emcgroup.com

MAINTENANCE TECH

A leading facilities mgmt. co. has openings for a Maint Tech in Alameda County for grave-yard shift to support large commercial bldgs. Must have general maint. exp. w/bollers, handlers, pumps and compressors. Will do PM work. Apply and send to 714-115-9082 or resumes@emcgroup.com

MAINTENANCE TECH

Fast paced health club looking for male lockers room attendant. FREE MEMBERSHIP + discounts on services. Duties include pool maint., cleanliness of locker rm, laund dry, etc. M-F 10-6p shift avail. Will train. Apply in person at 1908 Olympic Blvd, WC

MANAGEMENT

WATERWORLD

A MEMBER OF THE SIX FLAGS FAMILY
Seeks Seasonal Human Resources Manager. Extensive exp. to one of the largest water parks in the Bay Area. Human Resources Exp. a must. \$21.60-\$24.00/mo DOE. Seasonal Bnfts avail. Will train. Request e-mail resume to: amr@waterworld.com
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MANAGEMENT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Company serving adults w/developmental disabilities seeking motivated self-starter to assist in managing a day program. \$187.50/mo + \$3.00/mi + bnfts! Req BA in human services or related field or minimum 3 yrs exp working in a human services delivery system. w/2 yrs supervisory exp. HS diploma/OTD, car, valid CDL, ins. req. clean DMV, ability to provide staff training, supervision, planning, fax resume & detailed cover letter to (510) 724-4201. Apply in person at: Cole Vocational Services, 1817 San Pablo Ave., Pinole, CA 94664. Call (510) 724-1190

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Join the leading print and online media source in the East Bay.

Opportunities at Contra Costa Newspapers

Outside Sales Executives

Contra Costa Newspapers is looking for enthusiastic Advertising Executives to join our Retail, Classified Automotive and Classified Recruitment sales teams. Duties include actively selling and servicing all current advertisers as well as acquiring new advertisers within a specific region. The successful candidates will have advertising sales experience and knowledge of advertising principles. Must be detail and team oriented and possess excellent time management skills.

Telephone Sales Representatives

Join our team of skilled classified sales representatives. Responsibilities include selling and processing classified ads via the telephone. Must type 40 wpm, have excellent spelling, grammar and excellent customer service skills. The successful candidate will have previous telemarketing sales experience. Part-time and full-time positions available. Bilingual skills a plus.

New Business Development Representatives

We are seeking enthusiastic, self-motivated NBD representatives. This full time position will primarily focus on selling into job fairs as well as maintaining existing advertisers. May also interact with national advertising agencies regarding print and online recruitment advertising products and strategies. Must have a proven track record in sales with 3-5 years of experience, knowledge of advertising principles and excellent time management skills.

Recruitment Sales Manager

Contra Costa Newspapers has an excellent opportunity for a Recruitment Sales Manager. Duties include overseeing Recruitment Advertising staff, assisting in account revenue development and training. This position will be responsible for achieving department revenue and expense budget goals. Excellent leadership and communication skills are required. The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years management experience, knowledge of budgeting and goal setting with a proven track record in sales and/or sales management.

Magazine Account Executive

The Contra Costa Times is seeking a Magazine Account Executive. This position is responsible for developing new revenue streams for our Home & Design magazine by broadening our current advertising client base. Duties include using consultative selling techniques, soliciting new business through cold calling and targeted leads for our magazine product as well as developing sales strategies to meet revenue goals with a focus on selling advertising plans and contracts. Must have a proven track record in sales with 3-5 years of experience, knowledge of advertising principles and excellent time management skills. Computer and Internet experience are required.

Circulation Sales Manager

Contra Costa Newspapers is seeking a Circulation Sales Manager who will manage all pressure circulation sales, contracting door-to-door sales, stores, event sales and telemarketing. This position will be responsible for achieving budgeted sales goals and benchmarks, implementation and nurturing new retail sales opportunities. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years newspaper circulation experience. Strong direct sales background including a proven record of success in outside sales or telemarketing. Necessary skills include: budgeting, MS Word and Excel and strong interpersonal and communication skills.

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www.CONTRACOSTATIMES.COM

Web ID CC0111108

Interested applicants for the above positions should send their resumes and cover letters to Contra Costa Newspapers, 2640 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 or fax to (925) 977-8444 or email jobs@ccetimes.com

Contra Costa Newspapers is an equal opportunity employer offering competitive wages and a comprehensive flexible benefits package to include 401(k), pension plan, stock purchase plan, credit union, employee discounts, comprehensive training program, and an attractive business environment.

As a Knight Ridder company, Contra Costa Newspapers benefits from the resources of a prestigious national communications company. Knight Ridder offers comprehensive training programs and affiliation with its 32 other dailies and its news, information, graphics and photo services.

Employment

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East Bay medical oncology practice seeking 1-2 F/T RNs. Oncology exp. pref. Excel. salary, benefits and flexible schedule. Fax resume & refs. to: 510-834-5931 or Call 510-834-5923 Web ID CC0130610262

MEDICAL RECEPT.
for PP in S.R. Seeking Exp'd. M.A. is a plus. Fax resume & refs. to: 510-834-5931 or Call 510-834-5923 Web ID CC0130610262

MEDICAL-RECEPTIONIST
Busy Oakland Dermatology Practice seeks personable, reliable, energetic person to join our staff. Exp. pref. Call 510-452-2933 Web ID CC0130610262

MEDICAL RECEPT. P/T.
Exp. rec'd for 3 very busy primary care MDs in Danville. Must be team player. Excel. bnf's, pay & environ. Fax res: 925-648-0878

MEDICAL-Scrub Tech.
For Oakland Plastic Surgeon. 32 hrs/wk. w/bnfts. Must be a cert. Scrub Tech w/ exp. Call 510-654-9222 vlrubert@pacbell.net Web ID CC004613839

MEDICAL Sequela Surgical Pavilion.
an ambulatory surgery center in Walnut Creek has an opening for a P/T Registration Clerk. The hours are 5:30AM to 3PM Mon-Fri. Preferred candidate will have experience in medical field and be fluent in Spanish. We offer comp. salary & benefits. Fax resume, attn. Gina 925-935-6690

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MORTGAGE:
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EMPLOYMENT

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Base salary + incentives & great benefits! FAX/E-mail resume to: Pulte Mortgage, LLC, mortgage@pulte.com/southwest FAX: 877-330-2222 See more opportunities at www.careers.pulte.com EEO

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Employment

MORTGAGE Loan Underwriters
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CA lic'd. req. nurse req'd. exp'd. workers comp case manager. TCM pos. avail. We offer competitive sal., F/T pos. in greater Bay Area. Call 925-678-5700 Fax 925-686-5011 Web ID CC0130610262

NURSE MED. ASST.
3-5 days, Berkeley/Oakland. Pediatric exp. req'd. Patient care & phone advice. 9-5:30 + some evenings. Fax resume to: Carol 925-841-3650 Web ID CC0130610262

NURSE Director of Nursing
East bay location RN positions available. PM shift. Occasional Hospital & Care Centers. Tel 925-937-7450 Fax 925-937-5026 EOE

NURSING-DSO-RN/LVN
Exp. Rec'd. team build exp. skills essential. Contract. San Joaquin 925-964-2062

NURSING
Exp'd. reliable Live-in & Hvy Caregivers w/ own cars & current CDL. Spectrum Home Health Care 510-483-9225 or 925-925-9002

NURSING-immed. opening
for RN/LVN/MA. 3 days/wk. @ busy internal med. o/c. LVN/med. vac. sick leave, profit share, retirement. Pay commensurate w/ exp. Reply By Fax: 925-447-0933 Web ID CC0130610262

NURSING: LVN, FT & PT
\$20/hr. 25+ yrs. for ins. purposes. Res. care setting. DD kids. Fax 925-370-7184, Oakley

NURSING-RN/LVN-On
call all shifts. SM. SV in Danville. Call Bev Harms 925-964-7053

OPTICAL MEDICAL Dispenser/Front & Back OTC.
Best Wanted for busy Ophthalmic o/c. Excel. bnf's. Fax Resumes 925-947-4365 Web ID CC0128602770

OPTICIAN
Oakland/Oakland Med. o/c. No evenings on weekends. Bnfts. 401k. Fax resume to 510-893-1108

OPTOMETRIC ASST. P/T
exp. only, multi task, gd. pay & bnf's. Fax (925) 672-4485 or Call 672-4400

PAINTER W/ice.
grt. growth potential, good work ethics, integrity. Fax resume to: 925-447-1189 Web ID CC0130610262

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Exp. Exp. 30/hr. hrs. 401k. 800.244.1176 Web ID CC0130610262

Employment

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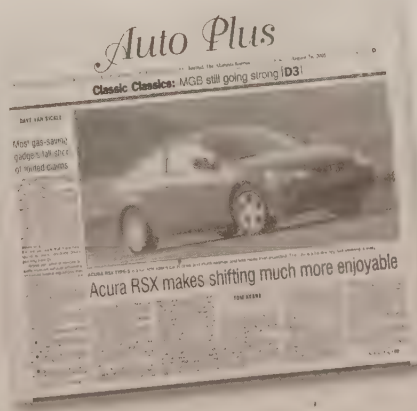
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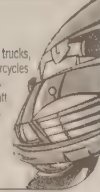
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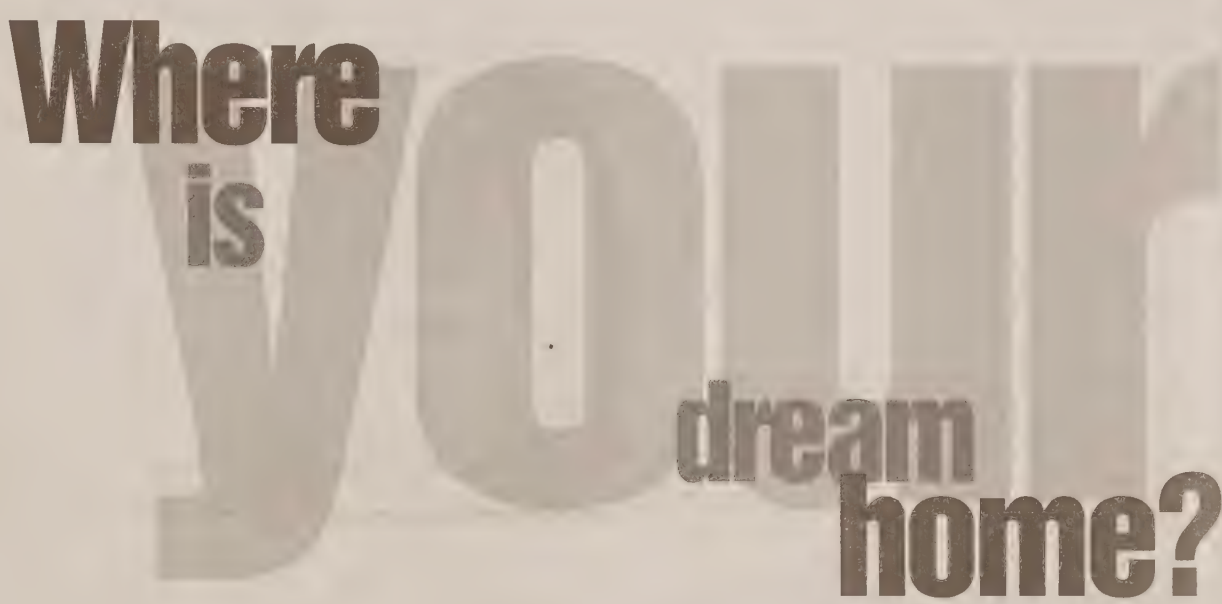
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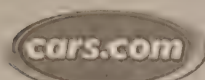
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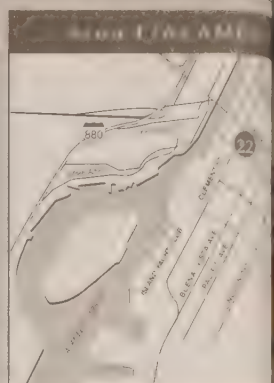
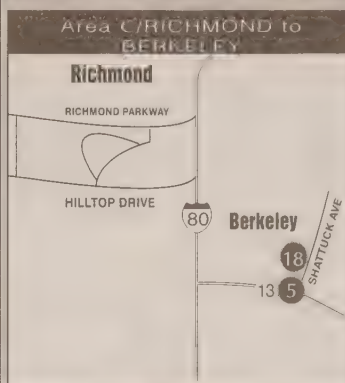
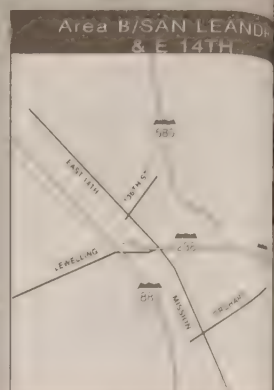
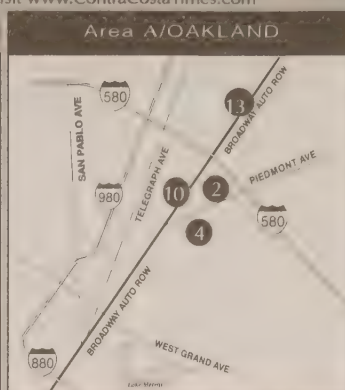
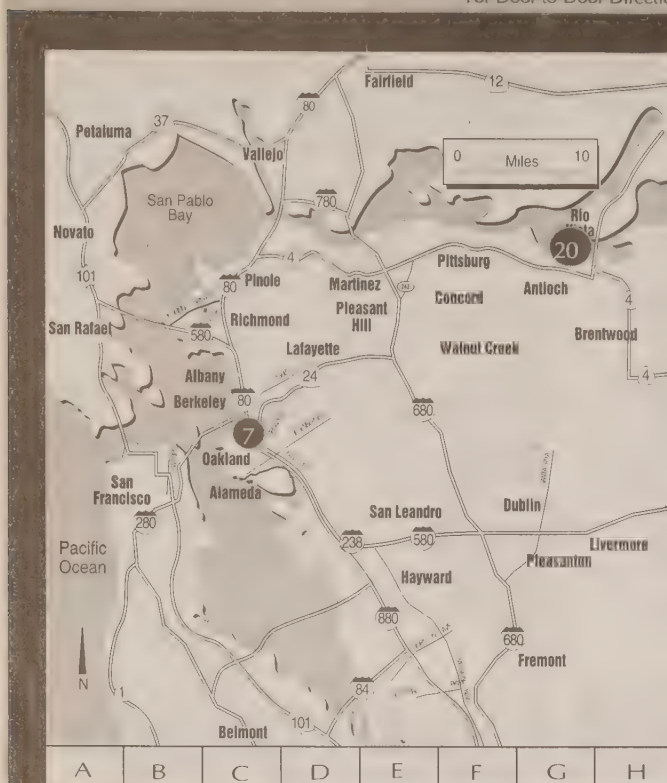
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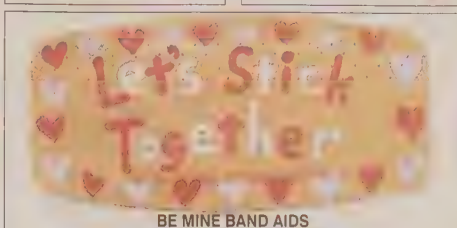
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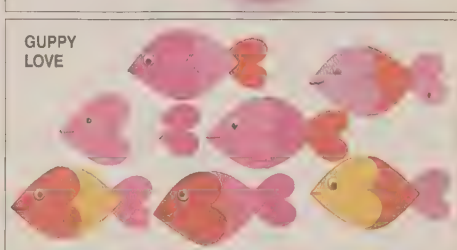


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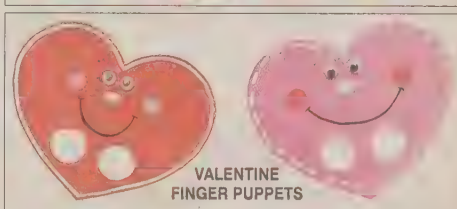


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Kid's Valentine's — Page 2



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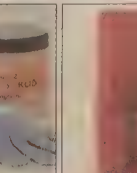
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Cook up a little romance for your sweetheart with a Valentine's Day dinner for two

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Instead of competing for restaurant reservations on Valentine's Day, prepare a romantic dinner for two at home. Even a kitchen novice can create a four-star meal for a sweetheart with a few simple recipes.

California strawberries put true romance on the menu with their vibrant red color and heart-like shape. Begin with Frisée Salad With Strawberries, followed by a main course of Salmon With Strawberry-Mango Salsa served with Wild Rice Salad With Citrus-Ginger Vinaigrette. A light, fluffy Ricotta Soufflé With Amaretto Strawberries adds a perfectly sweet ending.

Pouring the wine sets the mood for a relaxing meal. Sutter Home Winery Chef Jeffrey Starr offers his advice for choosing a wine for this special meal. "Select a wine that highlights the flavors of the meal without overpowering them. For this Valentine's Day menu, I'd choose White Zinfandel or Sauvignon Blanc. Their light, fruity flavors balance the spice of the salsa."

WILD RICE SALAD WITH CITRUS-GINGER VINAIGRETTE

1 cup cooked white rice
1 cup cooked wild rice
1/4 cup chopped green onion
2 tablespoons chopped red bell pepper
1-1/2 tablespoons finely chopped mint
1/4 cup coarsely chopped, toasted macadamia nuts
2 tablespoons orange juice
1 tablespoon rice vinegar
1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon minced garlic
1-1/2 teaspoons minced ginger
1-1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1-1/2 teaspoons brown sugar
1/4 cup Asian sesame oil
Salt and pepper

In large bowl, mix white and wild rice, green onion, bell pepper, mint and macadamia nuts. In small bowl, whisk orange juice, vinegar, soy sauce, garlic, ginger, mustard and sugar until thoroughly blended. Whisk in sesame oil; season with salt and pepper. Pour over rice mixture and stir to combine.

Prep time: 15 minutes, makes 2 servings.

Created by Chef Jeffrey Starr of Sutter Home Winery.

SALMON WITH STRAWBERRY-MANGO SALSA

Strawberry-Mango Salsa:

1 cup quartered, stemmed California strawberries
1/2 cup diced mango
1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
2 tablespoons diced red onion
1-1/2 tablespoons rice vinegar
2 teaspoons chopped mint
1-1/2 teaspoons brown sugar
1 to 2 canned chipotle chiles in adobo, rinsed, seeded and finely minced*

Salt

Salmon:

2 (6-ounce) skinless salmon filets
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and pepper

To make salsa, in bowl, combine strawberries, mango, bell pepper, onion, vinegar, mint, sugar and chipotles; stir together gently with rubber spatula or wooden spoon. Season with salt. Refrigerate, cov-

ered, up to 8 hours.

Preheat broiler. Brush salmon on both sides with oil; season with salt and pepper. Place on baking sheet. Broil salmon 4 inches from broiler element 4 to 6 minutes or until done. Transfer to 2 plates and spoon Strawberry-Mango Salsa over salmon.

Prep time: 20 minutes, cook time: 6 to 8 minutes, makes 2 servings.

*Created by Chef Jeffrey Starr of Sutter Home Winery.

*Chipotle chiles in adobo are available in Latin markets or substitute dried chipotles. Soak dried chipotles in hot water until soft; stem, seed and mince.

FRISÉE SALAD WITH STRAWBERRIES

Verjus Vinaigrette:

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon minced shallot
1/2 teaspoon minced thyme
1/2 teaspoon minced parsley
2 tablespoons verjus*

1 tablespoon walnut oil
Salt and pepper

Salad:

1/2 cup walnut halves
1 tablespoon sugar Kosher salt
3 cups frisée lettuce, washed
1 cup sliced, stemmed California strawberries
3 ounces creamy blue cheese or mild goat cheese, crumbled

In small bowl, whisk mustard, shallot, thyme, parsley and verjus. Slowly whisk in oil. Season with salt and pepper.

In skillet over low heat, heat walnuts, stirring frequently, about 2 minutes or until hot. Sprinkle

with sugar and cook, stirring constantly, about 2 minutes or until sugar melts and nuts are well coated and toasted. Transfer to bowl and season to taste with salt. Stir frequently while cooling to prevent nuts from sticking together.

To assemble, in large bowl, toss frisée with just enough verjus vinaigrette to coat lightly. Mound frisée on two plates, dividing equally. Toss strawberries with remaining vinaigrette; arrange on frisée. Sprinkle cheese and walnuts on top.

Prep time: 10 minutes, cook time: 5 minutes, makes 2 servings.

Created by Chef Jeffrey Starr of Sutter Home Winery.

*Verjus, a tart liquid made from unripe grapes, is available in specialty stores. If unavailable, substitute 1 tablespoon lemon juice and 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar.

RICOTTA SOUFFLÉ WITH AMARETTO STRAWBERRIES

Amaretto Strawberries:

2 cups (12 ounces) sliced, stemmed California strawberries
3 tablespoons amaretto (almond liqueur)*

2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Ricotta Soufflé:

Softened butter, for soufflé dish
Granulated sugar, for soufflé dish
2 cups (1 pound) part-skim ricotta cheese

1/3 cup granulated sugar

4 eggs, divided

3 tablespoons unseasoned dry bread crumbs

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon almond extract

1/4 cup chopped, toasted al-

monds, Confectioners' sugar, for garnish (recipe follows)

To make Amaretto Strawberries: In bowl, gently stir all ingredients together to dissolve sugar; refrigerate covered, up to 3 hours.

To make Ricotta Soufflé: Heat oven to 375°F. Generously butter a 4-cup soufflé dish; coat with sugar, shaking out excess. In bowl of electric mixer, beat cheese, granulated sugar, 3 eggs and 1 egg yolk, bread crumbs, flour and extract until thoroughly blended. In small bowl, whisk remaining egg white until stiff but not dry; gently fold into cheese mixture. Pour into prepared soufflé dish.

Bake in center of oven 40 to 45 minutes or until puffed and lightly browned. Cool on rack at least 5 minutes or up to 1 hour.

Loosen edges with knife and invert onto serving plate with a wide rim; sprinkle with almonds and dust with confectioners' sugar. Serve with Amaretto Strawberries.

Prep time: 25 minutes, cook time: 45 minutes, makes 4 servings.

Recipe from California Strawberry Commission.

*1/2 teaspoon almond extract can be substituted for the amaretto.

**For individual soufflés, use four 1-cup soufflé dishes; bake 20 to 25 minutes.

Wine and dine

Sutter Home Winery Chef Jeffrey Starr offers some additional tips for perfect wine pairings for your perfect pair.

Hearty steaks or robust tomato-sauced pastas meld with

the bold flavors of Sutter Home Cabernet Sauvignon.

Spicy Latin and Asian pair well with a fruity Pinot.

For dishes with cream-based sauces, Chardonnay.

Try roasted or grilled with the blackberry, or spice of a Sutter Home.

For additional food pairing suggestions, visit www.sutterhome.com.

Take strawberries to the next level

Beyond their heart- and delicious flavor, strawberries show the risk of heart disease, lowering blood pressure.

Strawberries are nearly year-round "berry-healthy" choices for Valentine's Day celebrations.

CHOCOLATE DIP WITH STRAWBERRIES

Melt 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips according to directions.

Dip fresh, whole California strawberries in chocolate to 3/4 of each berry. Lay on paper-lined baking sheet; refrigerate until set.

STRAWBERRIES IN BALSAMIC VINEGAR

Mix 1 pint sliced, halved strawberries with 1/2 cup EACH balsamic vinegar and 1/2 cup sugar. Refrigerate for 1 hour; serve in stemmed glass.

For more "berry-healthy" recipes, visit www.calstraw.com.

Quick and easy Valentines for your kids to make

FAMILY MAGAZINE

These cute — and unique — Valentine's Day card ideas are quick and easy to make for all those who are young at heart.

The candy carrier

Cap off Valentine's Day with this stylish tote, cleverly made from a party hat.

To make one candy carrier, you need: four minutes, 70 cents, plus candy.

1. Flatten a cone-shaped party hat and cut the lobes of a heart into the top edges, as shown.

Decorate one side with stickers and use a paint pen or permanent marker to write your name (and the name of your valentine) on the other side.

2. With a hole punch, make two holes where the lobes meet and thread with a ribbon, knotting the ends, for a handle.

3. Stuff the hat with tissue paper and fill it with assorted candies.

A sweet shovel

What's the scoop? Just a sweets-laden toy shovel that's perfect for your pals.

To make one candy shovel, you need: two minutes, 50 cents, plus candy.

1. Close a small bag of candy with a twist tie. With a ribbon, tie

it to the handle of a toy sand shovel. (We found a good selection of shovels at www.iparty.com for 40 cents apiece.)

2. Use a paint pen or permanent marker to write your message at the base of the shovel, just below the candy bag.

Message ideas:

■ I dig you!

■ Here's the scoop on Valentine's Day

■ It's Valentine's Day — dig it!

■ You've got the scoop on me!

Feet-heart

What valentine is special enough for your soul mates? This gem of a card — drawn from the bottoms of your soles!

To make one foot-heart, you need: five minutes, 75 cents.

1. Have someone help you trace your feet on colored card stock or heavy construction paper and cut out the shapes (use them as a template to make more cards).

2. Glue two feet at the heels to form a heart, as shown, and use a paint pen or marker to pen a message.

3. Glue flat-bottomed plastic jewels (available at craft stores) to the toes for polished nails.

Message ideas:

■ You're my sole mate

■ I get a kick out of you
■ I'd walk a mile for you
■ We're off on the right foot
■ You are toe nice!

Be mine Band-Aids

For sheer fun, turn ordinary bandages into these snazzy temporary tattoos.

To make one Band-Aid, you need: one minute and 5 cents.

1. Decorate a plain Band-Aid with a paint pen or permanent marker.

2. Add stickers, if desired.

Message ideas:

■ I'm stuck on you

■ Let's stick together

■ You make me feel better

■ I'm there if you get into a scrape.

Guppy love

Fishing for compliments this Valentine's Day? These little swimmers made of hearts should earn oceans of praise.

To make one guppy, you need: three minutes and 5 cents.

1. From colored card stock or heavy construction paper, cut two large heart shapes for the fish's body and one small one for the tail.

2. Glue together the three hearts to make a fish shape, as shown.

3. Use a paint pen or marker

to write a message on the back, then add a mouth and a googly eye to the front.

Message ideas:

■ Best fishes this Valentine's Day!

■ You're oceans of fun!

■ May your fishes come true this Valentine's Day!

Valentine finger puppet

Young hearts (and fingers) will dance at the sight of these lively paper puppets — which are a snap to make.

To make one finger puppet, you need: three minutes and 5 cents.

1. Cut a heart from colored card stock or heavy construction paper (use it as a template to make more).

2. Punch a starter hole for each finger with a hole punch, then use scissors to enlarge the circle; your fingers should fit snugly through the holes.

3. Decorate the heart with a paint pen or marker, adding facial features, and write your message on the back.

Glue on a googly eye.

Message ideas:

■ I'm your puppet

■ You make my heart dance

■ Let's dance!

For more great Valentine ideas go to: familyfun.go.com.

A novel way to say "I like you" with duct tape

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS

KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, here's a cheap way to tell someone you like them:

Duct tape roses

Actually, Duck Tape roses, since the instructions come from the folks at Duck Brand duct tape.

First, you'll need red duct tape, green duct tape, and thin floral wire, all of which you can get at the local hardware store.

1. Cut several strips of duct tape about two inches long.

2. Sticky side up, fold one edge over itself, leaving some stickiness on the side and bottom.

3. Take the parallel edge and fold it over, leaving only stickiness on the bottom of the strip.

4. Roll this across tightly, since this is the center of your rose.

Repeating Steps 2 and 3, you'll have strips of duct tape loosely bind the strips at the center (these are petals).

Continue until you reached the desired size.

For the stem, take a piece of floral wire and a strip of duct tape (the should be about a half shorter than the wire).

Place the wire on the parallel to it, and roll the tape across, wrapping the tightly around.

Finally, insert the end of the half-inch of wire — that doesn't have tape on it — into the rose. Make a stem to the rose.

These flowers are perfect for something you could use in a vase. As a replacement for real roses... I don't know.

Duck has more uses for duct tape. The site is www.ducktape.com.

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Make this the year you install a new water garden for mood and pleasure

BY NORMAN WINTER
MODERNTREND NEWS SERVICE

Yosemite National Park is famous for its majestic waterfalls. But for its babbling brook that was a family there last summer during a hike through a forest. We sat down to watch, listen and enjoy for 30 minutes or so. The mood and pleasure created by this active water can be duplicated in any landscape.

Water features have become popular all across the country in home landscapes more lush and enjoyable. You may want to make this the year you do-it-yourself water gardening in your landscape. Before you make that purchase, however, there are some key considerations.

A water feature is a dramatic addition to the landscape and in some cases becomes the focal point. It also becomes a place to sit, watch and relax. Any landscape can be made more enjoyable with water. Water adds a calming, relaxing element to a

hectic world. There are two primary types of water features to choose from: active and passive. Passive water moves only by a breeze like an earthen pond or perhaps a concrete pond. We have all watched the wind create tiny ripples on a pond.

But with the addition of plants like irises, lilies ferns and umbrella plants your passive water pond then becomes a wonderful and unique garden. If you think flowers can't be pretty in a water garden you haven't looked at water lilies lately.

Active water is different in that it moves, such as a cascading, rocky waterfall or a babbling brook. Active water features open up a new sensory perception - sound.

It is peaceful and soothing to listen to water move. This is evident in all of the tapes and compact discs sold that have water sounds to help listeners relax. Waterfalls are also extra special in that they create vertical movement. Water also can flow out of decorative containers or fountains,

and those are usually a smaller hit on the pocketbook.

So before you make your purchase decide on whether you want active or passive, formal or more natural. A water feature is sure to enhance your landscape and make your outdoors more enjoyable.

Nurseries and garden centers now stock everything you need to install your own water garden including aquatic plants and koi. Koi are the large goldfish-looking fish that seem to get more valuable with age.

Just about anyone can install water features. Fountains are available from those molded out of masonry, wooden barrels and even those created from metal. It may seem confusing on where to start, so by all means talk to your nurserymen about your goals before you buy.

If you doubt your ability to make the garden fit your landscape, don't fret because the solution to your dilemma may be just around the corner. Many garden centers and nurseries have water



THE MOOD AND PLEASURE created by this active water can be duplicated in any landscape.

Students' show of interest affecting college entry

BY NAHAL TOOSI
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

MILWAUKEE — It was the third time Rachel Canter filled out a Washington University, and almost didn't bother, thinking it was needlessly repetitive.

A university representative called her, then a student at Whitefish High School, to do so any time. "Fill it out because we keep track of how many times we're in contact with us," said Canter, who is now a freshman at Washington University.

Canter didn't know this then, and she might not have made it. But GWU not only tracks the number of contacts it has with a student, it also uses the information in the admissions process.

At universities do.

A fairly new and controversial use of college admissions called "demonstrated interest," where admissions officers try gauging how interested a student is in their institution by deciding whether to admit her.

"moderate" importance in the admissions process, while 26 percent said it was of "limited" importance. The organization received 595 responses to its survey.

Private universities, especially elite institutions in the Northeast, are more likely to use the factor than public schools, experts said.

"The more selective the institution, the lower the rate of admission, and the more important data driven from demonstrated interest becomes," said Lloyd Peterson, vice president of education at College Coach, an educational consulting company in Newton, Mass.

What counts as interest? The e-mails students send to admissions officers, the tours they take on campus, the amount of literature they request and more. Thanks to special software, tracking the quantifiable information is simple. Also important are less numerical items, such as whether a student's essay focuses on the school.

A classic display of interest is applying to a school through an early decision program. Such programs are binding, meaning if a student gets in to a school, they have to go there.

"The No. 1 way we look at demonstrated interest is whether the student self-initiated an inquiry," said Nancy Monnich, a top admissions official at Beloit College. "Did the student send an e-mail, write a letter or call? If a student initiates that interest, that's a big-time factor."

At Milwaukee's Mount Mary College, "where it plays a role is probably most strongly with students who don't meet the direct admissions requirements," said Amy Dobson, dean of enrollment. "If they made the effort to come on campus, really take

a look at the school, get a feel for the institution, then can reflect in an admissions essay about why she's choosing to apply here and why the characteristics make it a strong choice ... that can speak volumes."

But the whole idea of demonstrated interest — also known as demonstrable or perceived interest — has provoked plenty of anxiety in academic circles.

For one thing, some say college rankings are the true driving force behind the growing use of demonstrated interest. The method is a way of ensuring higher yield - the number of students accepted by a school who actually enroll. Yield has been a key factor considered by some outfits that rank universities.

Other concerns revolve around the effect the practice has on students. Students from low-income households, for instance, might not be able to afford the trips to campus, the long-distance phone calls or the e-mail access. Students attending wealthy private schools are more likely to have better counseling and more likely to be aware of demonstrated interest to begin with.

Plus, as more students catch on to the scheme, the admissions process gets more stressful and becomes more of a game.

"It rewards strategizing," said Ted O'Neill, dean of undergraduate admissions at the University of Chicago, which he said doesn't use demonstrated interest in its decisions. "Once you start to strategize, who knows what's sincere?"

Others in the field insist they are savvy enough to see through fake interest demonstrated by applicants and to take into account each student's circumstances, such as whether the student lives abroad and

can't visit.

"We never will choose not to admit someone that we otherwise would admit simply because they have no demonstrated level of interest," said Steve Syverson, dean of admissions and financial aid at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis.

Yet, it's something even cynical students and their high school counselors are less willing to ignore as college admissions gets more competitive.

Carla Oile, a college adviser at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, said students are encouraged to keep in touch with prospective colleges, including sending them notices when they win awards or are on the college campus.

It's especially important for students who face deferrals or are placed on waiting lists, Oile said. "I don't tell them they have to send a slipper or a shoe or a big video," she said. "Make it reasonable."

Unreasonable interest can work against a student. Admissions officers don't like to be harassed - there's a reason so many don't list their home phone numbers.

It's one thing to send an e-mail to the admissions dean. It's another thing to enlist dozens of

friends in a letter writing campaign on a student's behalf.

There are legends of students who mail doors or send singing telegrams, and supplying the admissions committee with cookies is fairly unoriginal these days.

"Borderline inappropriate is sending the parents in on their behalf," Dobson said.

Peterson, a former head of admissions at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., recalled a young visual artist who sent his office a large piece of plywood covered in jellybeans.

The jellybeans were maroon and white, Vassar's colors, and they spelled out, "Vassar is my No. 1 choice." The school chose not to demonstrate its interest in her.

Factors in admission

A survey of admissions officers around the nation shows that "demonstrated interest" in a school is becoming a factor in whether a prospective student is admitted. Nearly 600 officers responded to the survey.

Here is the percentage of admission officers who said the following factors are of moderate or considerable importance in admission:

- Grades in college-prep courses: 89 percent
- Standardized admission tests: 86 percent
- Grades in all courses: 85 percent
- Class rank: 68 percent
- Counselor recommendation: 59 percent
- Essay or writing sample: 58 percent
- Teacher recommendation: 57 percent
- Work or extracurricular activities: 47 percent
- Interview: 36 percent
- Student's demonstrated interest: 30 percent
- Subject tests (SAT II, AP, IB): 25 percent
- Race and ethnicity: 19 percent
- Scores on state graduation exam: 18 percent
- Ability to pay: 8 percent
- State or county of residence: 8 percent
- Source: National Association of College Admission Counseling

A student's to-do list

Among the ways a high school student can demonstrate interest in a university:

- E-mails to admissions officers.
- Taking campus tours.
- Requesting literature.
- Making the prospective school the focus of a required essay.
- Applying to the school through an early decision program. This requires the student to attend the school if accepted.

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Dads band together for the sheer love and joy of rock 'n' roll music

BY TONY HICKS

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WALNUT CREEK — It usually starts with a tickle. It may come from digging up an old demo or hearing a certain song on the radio or MTV. Even if an old rock band guy tries ignoring it, the tickle soon becomes an itch.

Pretty soon the old telephone book emerges from a desk drawer and dusty old gear descends from the rafters. Old friends may gather to tell war stories. At some point, one of the middle-aged, career-oriented family men may work up the courage to use the "B" word in a sentence: Band.

"It's the Elwood Blues syndrome: 'We're putting the band back together,'" says longtime band guy Jim Lautz, owner of a production company, who swears he was once the Mick Jagger of San Bernardino, Calif.

"We affectionately call them geezer bands."

It's a thriving demographic that manages to stay under the radar. But the Bay Area is full of middle-aged musicians who had stars in their eyes decades ago, only to grow up and get jobs and families. These guys are wising up.

They're firing up their amps in garages, bars and rec halls all over. They were the ones who grew up idolizing the Beatles and Zeppelin, yet couldn't get there themselves. Now they'll settle for the simple feeling of playing music again.

Young musicians are easy to spot — young and grubby, young and well-groomed, young and carrying instruments, young with piercings and purple hair, young and broke.

Not these guys (and gals in some cases). Part of the natural outgrowth of so many youngsters responding to the various rock-music explosions of the '60s, '70s and even '80s is that those musicians had to eventually grow up and out of an industry that often dooms newcomers over 30. With enough pressure, off goes the hair, in comes a mortgage, a minivan and a 401(k).

Life proceeds for years, maybe decades. Then comes the itch.

"In April 2002, I got the call," explains Lautz, a drummer and singer who knew some older guys who played around for fun. "They were booked to play in the park in Orinda July 4. The drummer couldn't make it. I sat in on one rehearsal and it was the first time I'd played in 30 years."

"I was surprised. It was like riding a bike. When I sat down for the first time I said 'The (former drummer) is toast.'"

Only days later, the now-53-year-old Lautz was making band logos and talking about making demos, like he was 17 again. He doesn't remember if his new bandmates in Stone Soup ever told the previous drummer he was fired.

"It was so much fun," Lautz says. "That's when people who come see you get into it."

It can be like an addiction. The beauty of one getting back to playing in a band after a number of years is that it's almost always for love. No one's trying to make it big anymore, and rarely is it about money. Lautz's band once played at a golf tourney for greens fees.

"You know that feeling when you're tight and you hit it, and there's no better feeling in the world," Lautz says. "That's when people who come see you get into it."

Eternal optimism is usually the hook for middle-aged guys. The talent didn't leave. Life just changed. The advantage is having something they probably lacked the first time around — money.

"We were banging on whatever we could back then," says John Ingram, 49, who started playing in bands in the late '60s in junior high and high school in Pleasant Hill, Calif., and later turned down a chance to move to L.A. to work

as a songwriter. "If only we would have had all this (gear) back then. I just bought my 15th guitar."

Ingram chose starting a family over music, going to work at Safeway in the early '70s. Now he's a manager of a worker's comp organization who got back together with some of his old band friends about a year ago, calling the project Nightlife.

It's all for fun — and the occasional public appearance. And like many others, any regrets get wiped away when the music starts.

"The decision was whether to start a family or go down there and try to make it like a thousand other guys working as waiters," says Ingram, who nevertheless has since had periodic bouts of getting serious. His former band, the John Lee Ingram Band, got consistent enough in the '80s to function as the house band at Hobie's in Concord.

"There's always the threat of taking it seriously again," says Ingram, who plays rock covers in Nightlife and also dabbles in a jazz band. "You sit down at rehearsal, you run through a song, it's good, and you look at each other and start thinking..."

Sometimes, it's an excuse to build a home studio — like Lautz's bandmate Steve Meckfessel, who built a rehearsal room in his house. Others go the more "professional" route by renting time in outside studios.

Dave Lopez, a manager at Oakland's Soundwave Studios, says there's plenty of older guys coming through, playing all different types of music.

"They're all bands to me, but there's less youngsters coming through here," Lopez says of the studio where bands such as Faith No More and Metallica once rehearsed. "The majority of bands coming through here are over 40 — probably because they have jobs and money to book time. You have guys doing it for fun, then you have the lifers."

Despite no longer chasing the almighty record contract, some bands still can't shake wanting to play live.

"They still jones for it," says Chris Lommoni, who books bands at Cadillac Ranch and Bourbon Street in Concord. "They have day jobs and even have their own businesses."

Lommoni's shows are by no means a senior circuit. But there is an age mix of bands that reflect a growing older rock fan demographic. Bands made up of players in their early 20s can be on the same bill as musicians in their early 40s, with little discernible difference in ability.

"A lot of the guys were in bands in the '80s even, there's a bunch of them," she says. "They hunt me down and ask me if I'm still booking and I'm like 'Oh my God — you're still playing?'"

Yet when some say it's really just about playing, they mean it.

"We do it purely for our own amusement," says Jim Paizis, a 50-year-old human resources director from Danville who gets together a couple of times a month with three friends to play acoustic music, without an audience. That wasn't the case back in the late '60s when, still in school, he played folk music locally in a group patterned after Peter, Paul & Mary.

"We decided we just enjoyed the spontaneous fun of it," Paizis says.

"We decided not to try to be polished or good. We've got to the point where we don't need to impress anyone. Our evenings are about drinking beer and playing music. It's a terrific form of male bonding."

The bands that do play live mostly rely on covers, considering that an adult life doesn't always allow time for songwriting.

Dave Salka's band, Radio Activity, just played its first gig at Meenar's in Danville. For a first show, it was a fairly large all-ages crowd that spent much of the night dancing to covers ranging from Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music" to No Doubt's "Just a Girl."

"It was much anticipated and a great night," says Salka, 43, a respiratory therapist and single parent living in Concord. The drummer got started in local bands while at Walnut Creek's Northgate High School, but quit in his early 20s.

"I just love to play, I don't know how else to say it," he says. "I had to change my work schedule and, as far as home stuff, it can get in the way. It's both a thrill and a pain in the (rear). But it's an addiction."

One thing they all share is a love for the music that, even if they quit for a while, lingered long enough to return them to playing later in life.

"We're comfortable just to dabble back in for the joy of it," says Tim Tobin, a 45-year-old Walnut Creek resident and owner of a construction company who plays keyboards at about five gigs a year for Random 6. "We're good enough now where we're just looking at each other and getting into the zone playing."

Not only are middle-aged rockers popping up where few existed before, but there's a whole new take for the next generation. Thirty years ago, very few parents were endorsing their daughter's choice of musician boyfriends.

"My daughter is dating a metal drummer," Ingram says. "She's at the same age my wife was when we were out on the scene. So her mother and her have some pretty interesting conversations."

Getting the band back together?

Pop superstardom is mostly for the young. But simply playing in a band is no longer just a game for kids. There's a lot of retired amateur rockers out there, chomping at the bit to get out and play again. There's no reason not to — with a few things in mind:

■ Have clear expectations. If your last gig was opening for Quicksilver Messenger Service and you're not already famous, you probably won't get a record deal. Who cares? Record companies stopped being cool years ago.

■ Clear it with the family. There's nothing worse than surprising your partner with your new hobby by spending \$3,000 on new drums and secretly inviting the guys over. This shouldn't be a big deal. If they've never seen you play, they'll think you're something of a rock star. Let them. Just don't start dressing like your kids.

■ Have clear goals. If you just want to work the occasional party playing cover songs and you find yourself in a band with three guys looking to make a living on the road with originals, you're in trouble. Sketch out exactly what you want to do with bandmates when it comes to rehearsals, gigs and demo tapes. Then do it. This should also cut down on the inevitable band politics.

■ Be prepared to spend some money. Music is at least as expensive as playing golf. You may need an equipment upgrade. Demo tapes cost as well. And don't ever believe that you'll recoup the cash with gigs if you're not a semi-serious working band. Of course, if you have enough money to build a home studio, go forth.

■ Don't worry about being bad. Who cares? You'll get better. Old guys not fighting puberty and pimples always play better than when they were young. Always focus on the fun. Yet don't forget to pose when you play. It's important.

Even middle-aged musicians should still dream of being rock stars.

Five reasons to use a primer before painting to avoid wall problems later

MS

A common misconception among do-it-yourselfers (DIYers) is the expectation that two coats of quality paint will be sufficient to cover previous wall problems. In reality, if a wall is not prepared properly, even multiple coats of expensive paint cannot cover the surface adequately.

"Primer and paint are not the same," says Mike Walsh, vice president of marketing and new product development at Masterchem Industries, makers of KILZ primer.

"Primer is specifically formulated to seal unfinished or finished surfaces and make sure the topcoat of paint adheres to the surface to create the best-looking, longest-lasting finish. You are wasting your time, paint and of course, money if that topcoat begins peeling or soaks unevenly into the surface because you didn't use a primer."

Walsh says primer is essential for the following reasons:

1. **Priming seals the surface, assuring a smooth base for your topcoat of paint.**

Because primer is formulated to seal the surface, its application will make it easier to apply the topcoat. Primer seals the base, preventing uneven absorption, which leads to uneven paint color.

2. **Priming maximizes topcoat hide, so it's ideal for color changes.**

Want to go from cranberry red to sunshine yellow? Even two or three coats of quality paint may not completely hide your previous color, whether it's lighter or darker than your new choice.

One coat of primer will hide the previous color, ensuring that the color on the paint chip matches what ends up on your walls. Stain-blocking primer such as KILZ Original or KILZ Premium will hide stains on the walls such as crayon, marker, water, smoke and grease, and will prevent these stains from resurfacing in the future.

3. **Priming increases paint coverage and topcoat adhesion.**

Many household surfaces are either too porous or too slick to allow two coats of paint to adhere properly. Porous surfaces like wood, drywall and masonry soak up paint unevenly and require multiple coats to achieve the desired look.

Slick surfaces, such as

block and ceramic tile, previously painted glass, such as cabinets and doors, could cause the paint to not prime first.

4. **Priming promotes consistent sheen and uniformity.**

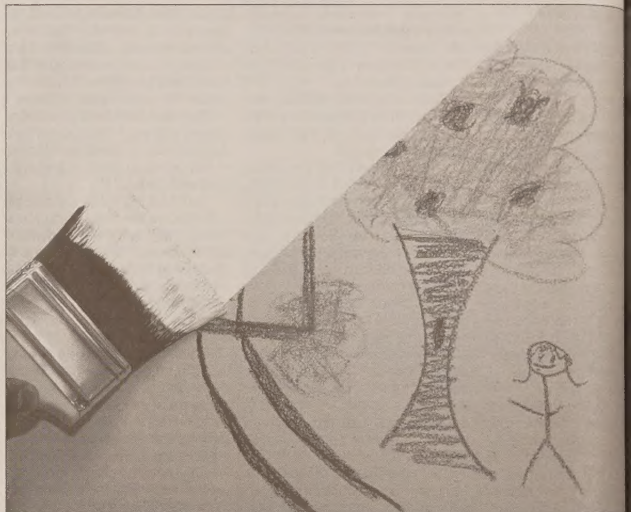
Once you have a paint sheen (flat, satin, eggshell, or high gloss) that best meets your needs, prime the area to ensure that the topcoat will stay true to the sheen chosen.

5. **Priming seals mold and water damage, so it doesn't bleed through paint.**

Bathrooms, basements and other moisture-prone areas are able to have mildew. Premium contains a mildewicide to help retard mold growth on the primer.

Primers are available in water-based formulas, and/or exterior applications, less formulas for interior use are available.

To find what primer your household needs, call PRIMER-1 or visit www.kilz.com.



FOR SMALL OR BIG JOBS, always prime before you paint in order to ensure a smooth finish, consistent, long-lasting color.

The tangled Web of online dating

BY ERIC EDWARDS
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

There are ways to tell when a behavioral trend has officially moved from the fringes into the mainstream. One is when NBC bases a Thursday night sitcom on it, and another is when your mother tells you it's a good idea. But a trend has completely solidified when someone makes a "Dummies" book about it.

So when I ran across "Online Dating for Dummies," I knew Internet dating had finally arrived.

Online dating has been around since Al Gore invented the Internet as a way to pick up women. But it has always had a scent of creepiness associated with it, as if users of online dating services were S&M fetishists looking for someone to lure into their torture chambers — not that there's anything wrong with that.

Even today, there is the not-completely-unfounded idea that finding love on the Web is a bit dangerous and difficult. This is what has created a market for how-to manuals to help people navigate the murky waters of the Internet singles scene.

In fact, the smart people who publish the "Dummies" series are not the only ones offering such dating advice. "I Can't Believe I'm Buying This Book: A Commonsense Guide to Successful Internet Dating" also hit the shelves recently.

The authors of both guides hope to clear up the myths of online dating by offering their experiences and the experiences of others as both cautionary tales and templates for success.

The "Dummies" guide appeals to the rational-minded dater. It looks upon the services as efficient and painless methods of meeting age-appropriate, like-minded singles.

The argument is compelling. Most people in search of relationships are going about their daily activities, hoping a delectable single crosses their path — but just because that cute woman at the grocery may have smiled, it doesn't mean she isn't married with kids or has a 400-pound boyfriend.

In an online singles room, everyone is looking. Why else would they be there?

Evan Marc Katz, author of "A Commonsense Guide," veers toward the raw numbers to indicate the benefits of online dating.

"I've corresponded with over 250 different women and gone out with over 75 of them. Out of those 75, I'd say I actually dated 10 women for a month before the relationship fizzled. Finally after four years of online dating, I fell in love."

For the first time with a

met on the Internet. This goes back to the theory of dating. The more you go out with, the more you are to go out with, the more really great.

Frankly, it sounds like a lot of work to me. I haven't dated with 75 women in the past much less dated that many just thinking about it.

Both books make it seem anyone who takes his or her seriously would be a fool picture of himself. The odds are 14 times more likely to find a profile that includes a photo of a woman are 8.5 times more likely to find a photo of a man.

The bottom line about these books is simple: They are saying that, if you're a mon-sense advice dummy, you wouldn't already be a dummy.

■ Do be prepared to wade through profiles and be initiating contact with people.

■ Don't post a misleading profile.

■ Do come up with a file. Katz recommends "Funny guy with killer money to burn seeks woman who doesn't believe everything."

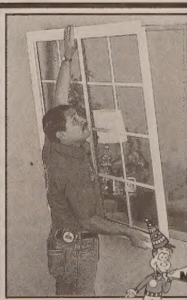
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Secrets to solving any carpet stains

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proper care, carpet can beauty and comfort in your for many years. Although inevitable, today's carpet can ensure full removal of stains. The carpet experts at Wear-Dated, Inc., makers of Wear-Dated carpet fiber, offer effective spot removal for your next spill. Use a wet/dry vacuum as a weapon for use in stain removal. Use the attachment of the vacuum, and vacuum up the liquid as possible. If needed, applying amount of detergent to the stain is removed, rinse the area by slowly pouring water to the carpet as you work. If you do not have a vacuum, follow these guidelines to remove solid materials with a spoon, spatula or dull knife to spreading the stain.

■ Blot spills with clean, white absorbent materials such as a cloth or paper towels. Press down hard to remove as much liquid as possible, but do not rub, which will cause lasting damage to the carpet.

■ If a spot removal solvent is necessary, apply several drops to a clean, white cloth and blot the carpet in an inconspicuous area to ensure it doesn't affect the color of your carpet. Use the solution sparingly. Consult a professional carpet cleaner if a color change occurs.

■ If one spot solution fails to work, try another one until the stain is removed.

■ Always rinse the area with water to remove as much detergent as possible. Incomplete removal of the detergent will cause dirt to stick to the carpet and the stains will return.

■ Absorb all of the moisture after rinsing. Leave a towel on the carpet under a weighted object overnight to ensure absorption of all of the water, again to prevent recurring stains.

For specific spot cleaning procedures for additional stains, con-

sult the Wear-Dated spot cleaning guide available at weardated.com.

Stain removal recipes

Think that catsup Billy spilled while eating a hamburger in front of the TV is there forever? Think again. The experts at Wear-Dated are here to help you get rid of even the toughest of stains.

The stain: blood, catsup, cheese, chocolate, cola, cough syrup, mixed drinks, soft drinks, soy sauce, toothpaste, watercolor and white glue

Use: 1 tablespoon of clear household ammonia per 1 cup of water

The stain: beer, coffee, perfume, tea, wine

Use: 1/3 cup of white vinegar and 2/3 cup of water

The stain: egg, excrement, urine and vomit

Use: Ammonia solution above. If stain remains, moisten stained tufts with 3 percent hydrogen peroxide, and let stand one hour. Blot and repeat.

The stain: rust

Use: Saturate the spot with lemon juice. Let stand five minutes.



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Glossary of curtain terminology

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Have you ever gone shopping for curtains and become so overwhelmed at the numerous styles and choices available that you just didn't know where to begin?

The experts at Marburn Curtain Warehouse, a chain of home furnishings outlets in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, have created a glossary of curtain terminology to end the confusion and make shopping for curtains easier than ever.

■ **Balloon Curtain:** Single-panel curtain which is adjusted by gathering vertical rows of rings to create a scalloped bottom.

■ **Blinds:** Window coverings made of horizontal or vertical slats that rotate for light and privacy control.

■ **Button-Hole Curtains:** Panels with evenly spaced button holes through which a rod is threaded.

■ **Button-Hole Valance:** Valances with evenly spaced button holes through which a rod is threaded.

■ **Caf:** Traversing or non-traversing drapery designed as a tier. Heading can be various styles. Can be set at a variety of heights to control ventilation, view and light.

■ **Caf Rod:** Small, round decorative rod used to mount caf curtains that don't have a rod pocket. They are meant to be seen and add an additional decorative touch to curtain treatment.

■ **Cascade:** Fall of fabric that descends in a zig-zag line from a drapery heading or top treatment.

■ **Center Draw:** One pair of draperies which draws open and closes exactly at window's center point.

■ **Center Support:** Metal grip used to support traverse rod from above. Prevents rod from sagging in the middle, but doesn't interfere with rod operation.

■ **Crescent Valance:** Valance (tailored or ruffled) shaped like a crescent.

■ **Door Panel:** Curtain panel with two rod pockets, one top and one bottom. Made to cover glass on door. Wider than sideights (see definition at right).

■ **Draw Draperies:** Panels of fabric featuring pleated headings.

■ **Dropy Tab Curtains:** Tab-style curtain with tabs spaced widely, creating a soft fold or dropy effect when pushed back.

■ **End Bracket:** Two supporting metal grips which hold a drapery rod to wall or ceiling and control amount of projection.

■ **Festoon:** Decorative drapery treatment of folded fabric that hangs in a graceful curve and frames top of window.

■ **Finial:** Decorative end piece on caf rods or decorative traverse rods (also referred to as pole ends).

■ **Insert Valance:** Manufactured to fit between the pieces of a swag as an insert to cover a wider window; can also be used alone.

■ **Jabot:** Decorative vertical end of an over treatment that usually finishes a horizontal festoon.

■ **Lace Panel:** Openwork cloth with a design formed by a network of threads made by hand or on special lace machinery with bobbins, needles or hooks.

■ **Layering:** Mounting multiple treatments in same window; one treatment is usually functional, like a blind or shade, while others are used for decorative effect.

■ **One-Piece Festoon:** Top treatment for wide windows which drapes over curtain rod, creating graceful curves.

■ **One-Piece Swag:** Window covering consisting of seamless curtain with rod pocket and straight sides on outside and softly curved inside, creating an open airy look.

■ **One-Way Draw:** Drapery designed to draw one way in one panel.

■ **Panel:** Expanse of fabric hung directly on a rod, opened and closed by simply pushing or traversing the fabric from side to side.

■ **Pinch Pleats:** Drapery heading where basic pleat is divided into two or three smaller, equal pleats, sewn together at bottom edge on right side of fabric.

■ **Pinch Pleat Curtains:** Identified by pleated fabric at top of curtain (there is no rod pocket). Also called draperies, they are attached to a traverse rod or pole rod with rings by using drapery hooks.

■ **Pin-On Hook:** Metal pin to fasten draperies to rod; pins into drapery pleat and hooks to traverse carrier or caf rod.

■ **Puff Valance:** Simple rod pocket valance which can be hung like traditional tailored valance or puffed (puffed), gently softening its appearance.

■ **Ruffled Cascade:** Top treatment that can be draped over swag holders, holdbacks or over length of rod (finials hold up fabric). Rectangle of fabric with ruffles attached to three sides.

■ **Ruffled Curtains:** (also called Cape Cods or Priscillas): Classic ruffle that's found on two or three edges of curtain. Mostly used with matching valance and tiebacks.

■ **Sash Curtain:** Any sheer material hung close to window glass; usually hung from spring tension rods or sash rods mounted inside window casing.

■ **Sash Rod:** Small rod, either decorative or plain, usually mounted inside window frame on sash.

■ **Scalloped Valance:** Top treatment featuring a semi-circular bottom.

■ **Scarf:** Top treatment that can be draped over swag holders,

hold-backs or over length of rod, or threaded through sconces.

■ **Shades:** Window coverings made of material that rolls, gathers or folds both up and down. Can be raised for light and view and lowered for privacy.

■ **Sidelight:** Curtain panel with two rod pockets, one top and one bottom. Designed to cover sideights which are narrow windows at side of doors.

■ **Stationary Balloon Valance:** Valance with scalloped bottom, similar in appearance to a balloon curtain.

■ **Swag:** Draped one-piece fabric valance that falls gracefully from top of window, swooping in downward direction.

■ **Swag Set:** Window covering consisting of left and right panel. Some sets include a festoon.

■ **Tab Curtains:** Known by tabs (plain, button, tie-tabs, dropy) positioned on upper edge of curtain. Tabs look best when used with a wood or decorator rod since rod will be exposed through the tabs. Rod should be mounted high enough so window or glass is not visible above top edge of curtain.

■ **Tailored Curtains:** Named for their clean lines, they can be found plain or with trimmed edges. Used alone or with coordinating valance, they can hang straight or be tied back.

■ **Tapered Valance:** Top treatment whose sides gradually come to a point at the center.

■ **Tiebacks:** Decorative pieces of hardware (sometimes called holdbacks) designed to hold curtains or draperies back from window to allow light passage or to add an additional decorative touch to window treatment.

■ **Tie-Tab Valance:** Top treatment with ties at top which allow you to tie them onto rod as tightly or as loosely as desired. Controlling the length creates a more casual look.

■ **Tie-Up Curtain:** Tailored panel gathered softly from the bottom by using ribbons or straps.

■ **Tiers** (also called privacy tiers or cafs): Typically hang by a tension or caf rod at midway point of a window to cover only lower half.

■ **Top Treatments:** Decorative treatments mounted above window, including cornices and valances.

■ **Valance:** Top treatment used over curtains or tiers on their own rod. Sometimes used alone on a door or small window. They are described by their shape or function (tailored, ruffled, tab, tapered, crescent, insert, etc.).

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Hardwoods give you the freedom to mix and match

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Concerned about which American hardwood to choose? Think you have to select just one so that the floors, furniture, cabinets and moldings all "match?"

Relax, say the experts at the Hardwood Information Center. Don't be afraid to blend different but complementary hardwoods and stains.

"Everything matching" is a mistake; it's not fashionable," says New York kitchen designer Florence Perchuk.

Match woods in trim, floors and cabinets? "No! Forget about matching! What's important is the relationship," says Patricia Hart McMillan, author of "Decorating for Dummies" (Wiley). A room with three or four warm woods is far more visually inviting than the matchy look.

For example, it's important to consider the role you want your hardwood floor to play. A light floor will set off dark furniture beautifully or vice versa: the higher the contrast, the greater the impact.

To get acquainted with the possibilities, visit www.hardwood-info.com to see 22 American hardwoods in natural, light, medium and dark finishes.

And don't forget that hardwoods are a naturally soothing counterpoint to the starkness of home electronics. Designer John Buscarello says, "Flat-screen TVs are very big, cold, flat things; surrounding wood softens the high tech items."

Remember: interplays of hue, pattern and texture are the keys



WHETHER IT'S FOR STORAGE or display, hardwood built-ins are attractive and practical. These maple shelves complement the mixed hardwood floor — ash, cherry, maple, red and white oak, poplar and walnut

to successful interior design. You'd never cover every piece of furniture in the same pattern and fabric.

Why repeat one wood on every surface?

Here are five easy ways to express yourself with American hardwoods:

- Add semi-custom cabinets throughout the house for extra storage that will organize, simplify and de-stress your life.
- Feature hardwood moldings

along the ceiling. Simple crown moldings begin around \$3/foot; carved at \$22/foot.

Splurge with coffered beams (\$8,000 to \$12,000 for a 12 x 14 room) or halve that cost with plain beams.

- Go for that maple counter-

top: dents, burns and nicks are easily repaired and you'll never know they happened.

■ Make any room more luxurious with classic hardwood blinds or shutters.

- Accent the dining room with chair rails or wainscoting.

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Slow-cooker tips for both expert and novice

BY KATHIE JENKINS
KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

I did have a couple of failures, but none so bad it couldn't be salvaged.

Here are a few suggestions:

Unless you have a large family, a 3½- to 4-quart model should be sufficient.

To save money, pick up one at a thrift store for about \$5.

Mine has only two settings (high and low) and a removable crock liner, which is easy to clean.

Trim excess fat from meat before cooking.

Fat will melt during the long cooking and add unpleasant, greasy texture to the finished dish.

Brown meat before adding it to the cooker.

It doesn't take that much extra time and makes a world of difference in flavor.

I've tried various pans, and the one that browns the best and quickest is a good old-fashioned cast-iron skillet.

Fill the crockpot one-half to three-quarters full.

If the level is lower, the food will cook too quickly; if higher, the food will not get hot enough quick enough.

Presoak dried beans for

faster cooking.

If you convert recipes for the slow cooker about half the recommended amount of liquid, since it doesn't evaporate the way in stove-top cooking.

One hour on high

two hours on low.

Vegetables don't cook as quickly as meat, so

vegetables first.

Hamburger and ground meat should be in a skillet before being

slow cooker.

Precook rice and add it to the final cooking

for better control.

Same is true for grating or delicate ingredients like cheese or fresh herbs.

Don't lift the lid too often.

It breaks the seal and rim and interferes with cooking time — each pot about 20 minutes cooking.

Stir soups and stews before serving.

I don't recommend

with fish.

If you do make any fish, add it during the

of cooking time so it doesn't overcook and turn into

Don't use a slow cooker

reheating cold food.

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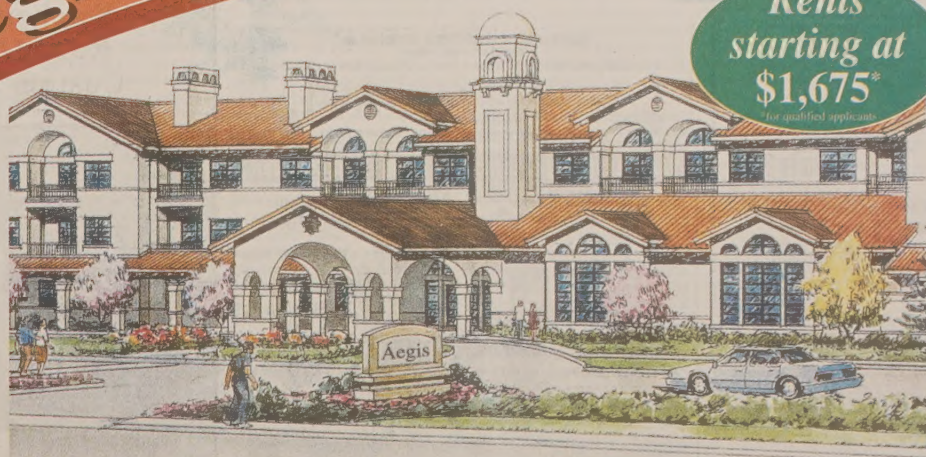
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